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OPINION METER

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intend to celebrate
New Year's Eve?

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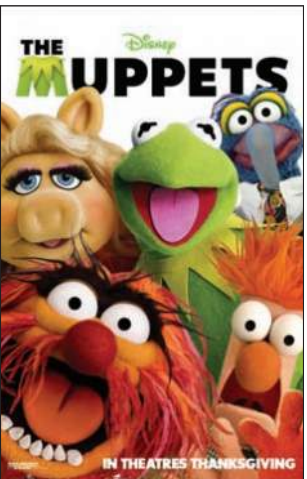
INSIDE



Jazzed Up

Are you ready to "Respect the Roll?"

BUSINESS...Page 13



2011 Films

One last look at the best and worst in film of 2011.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

**In observance
of New Year's
Day, the Saipan
Tribune will not be
published on
Jan. 2, 2012.**

Judge convicts wife beater on Tinian. PAGE 2
Oil pipeline project faces delay anew. PAGE 5

Crossed fingers for 2010

» **Many believe CNMI will get worse in 2012, but everyone hopes for the best**



BRINGING HOLIDAY CHEERS

IT&E customer service manager Lynn Santos and marketing coordinator Brad Ruszala pose with members of Koblerville Elementary School's award winning Umang Glee Club after the group serenaded IT&E personnel and customers at the IT&E Chalan Laulau office yesterday morning. KES's Umang Glee Club, which twice won the Christmas in the Marianas caroling competition, has been making the rounds on Saipan to spread the holiday cheers with their song and dance performances.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Marvin B. Seman, a father of two, has been dropping by the post office in Chalan Kanoa almost every day for the past few weeks, hoping to see his and his wife's 2010 tax rebate and refund checks in the mail to help supplement their income, especially during the holidays, but he comes home always disappointed.

"It's about \$800 but that would be a big help. We could have spent it for Christmas gifts. I am totally disappointed," Seman told *Saipan Tribune* after checking his mailbox at the post office once again.

See CROSSED on Page 4



Rep. Palacios cited for contempt

» **No jail time
but lawmaker
ordered to make
payments**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman on Thursday found Rep. Raymond D. Palacios in contempt for disobeying court

orders requiring him to make monthly payments in connection with a consolidated 11-year-old civil case.

Wiseman, however, did not sanction Palacios but ordered

See PALACIOS on Page 4

DID YOU KNOW? US population at 312.8M on Jan. 1

As our nation prepares to ring in the new year, the U.S. Census Bureau projected the Jan. 1, 2012, total United States population will be 312,780,968. This would represent an increase of 2,250,129, or 0.7 percent, from New Year's Day 2011, and an increase of 4,035,430, or 1.3 percent, since Census Day (April 1, 2010).

In January 2012, one birth is expected to occur every eight seconds in the United States and one death every 12 seconds.

Meanwhile, net international migration is expected to add one person to the U.S. population every 46 seconds in January 2012. The combination of births, deaths and net international migration results in an increase in the total U.S. population of one person every 17 seconds. (*U.S. Census Bureau*)

Samoa and Tokelau to cross int'l date line

KENI LESA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

APIA, Samoa (AP)—The tiny South Pacific nation of Samoa and its neighbor Tokelau will jump forward in time on Thursday, crossing westward over the international date line to align themselves with their other 21st century trading partners throughout the region.

At the stroke of midnight on Dec. 29, time in Samoa and Tokelau will leap forward to Dec. 31—New Year's Eve. For Samoa's 186,000 citizens, and the 1,500 in Tokelau, Friday, Dec. 30, 2011, will simply cease to exist.

The time jump back to the future comes 119 years after some U.S. traders persuaded local Samoan authorities to align their islands' time with nearby U.S.-con-

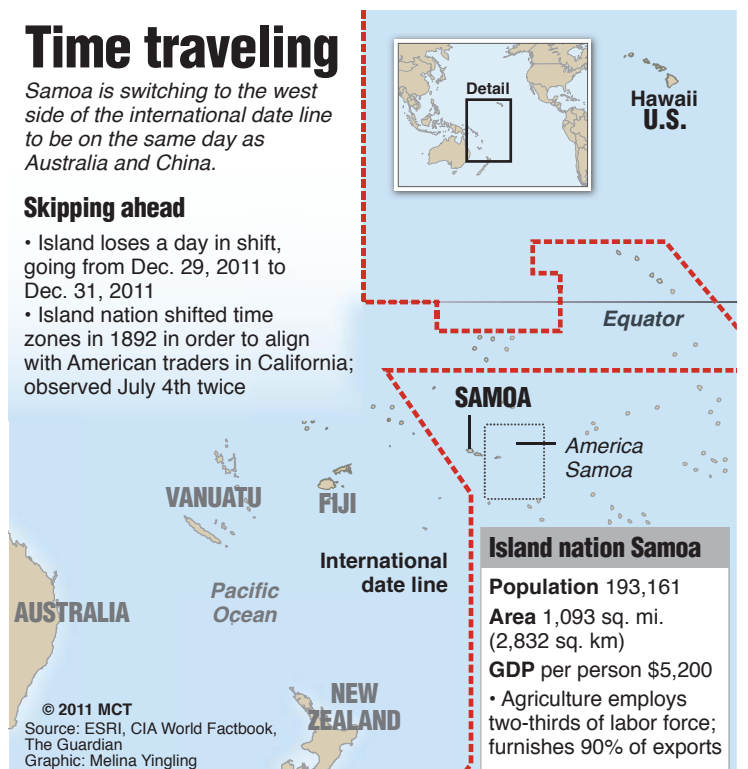
See SAMOA on Page 4

Time traveling

Samoa is switching to the west side of the international date line to be on the same day as Australia and China.

Skipping ahead

- Island loses a day in shift, going from Dec. 29, 2011 to Dec. 31, 2011
- Island nation shifted time zones in 1892 in order to align with American traders in California; observed July 4th twice



Hawaii
U.S.

Equator

SAMOA

America
Samoa

Island nation Samoa

Population 193,161
Area 1,093 sq. mi.
(2,832 sq. km)
GDP per person \$5,200
• Agriculture employs two-thirds of labor force; furnishes 90% of exports

Local

Judge convicts wife beater on Tinian

After a bench trial on Tinian, Brent Borja was convicted on nine out of 10 counts for the systematic and perpetual abuse of his girlfriend. On Thursday, Dec. 29, 2011,

Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman found Borja guilty on three counts of assault and battery, two counts of misuse of a government vehicle, two counts of disturbing the peace, and two counts of violating an order of protection. Borja was found not guilty on one count of child abuse. Sentencing was continued for 45 days.

Assistant attorney general Russel Lorfing prosecuted the case for the Commonwealth and assistant public defender Benjamin Petersburg represented Borja.

"The government was able to establish a pattern of physical,

emotional, and mental abuse through the brave testimony of the defendant's children and former spouse," Lorfing said.

Testimony at trial proved the defendant attacked his girlfriend on several occasions, including an attack when the victim was nine months pregnant with the defendant's twins.

Many of the attacks were also witnessed by the defendant's children, who testified that on one occasion, they witnessed their father pull their mom out of the car by her hair and then punch her in the face.

The Office of the Attorney General seeks the cooperation of the public to solve other crimes of domestic violence. If anyone has information about a

past crime, call the Department of Public Safety or NMI Crime Stoppers (234-7272). Tips can be forwarded on the Internet at: <http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com>. Victims' Advocate

Blumel Ada (664-2366) serves to provide support to victims of crimes including coordination to ensure that victims know about case status and are involved and informed of plea offers. (PR)

Rotating docs in charge of Tinian patients—for now

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Tinian Health Center currently has two rotating physicians, each providing the needed treatment for ill residents on island.

Healthcare corporation chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta told *Saipan Tribune* that visiting Dr. Patrick James Tong and Commonwealth Health Center's Dr. Gary Ramsey are splitting their schedule for now to attend to the medical needs of Tinian residents.

The center's lone physician, Dr. Steve Lebamoff, had recently resigned from his post. The doctor was hired early this year for \$130,000 per annum. He replaced Dr. Priyawathan Wijay who exited the center in November last year.

Lebamoff was hired at the time when the health center was still being run under the municipality's control. The corporation officially took over this function on Oct. 1.

Babauta revealed that Tong, who is on island for a short vacation, had expressed willingness to work part-time at the center and is expected to render services only up to a month. He said the corporation is actively looking for a permanent doctor for THC but admitted to being challenged by the government's budget situation.

"We are just so broke that as

much as we want to bring two doctors onboard [for THC], we are only able to get one...and we are under active recruitment now," he said, adding that the rotating schedule of doctors for the Tinian center may last until a replacement for Lebamoff is hired.

Babauta also disclosed that in the absence of a permanent doctor, the corporation approved a 30-day contract for John Pangelinan, the center's physician assistant who has been serving the center for many years. Pangelinan, he said, is highly regarded by the people of Tinian and has been a big help in providing medical assistance.

Despite the situation, Babauta assured that proper treatment is being accorded to all patients because of the center's close collaboration with Commonwealth Health Center doctors.

Meantime, THC acting resident director Freddy Hofschneider told *Saipan Tribune* that the rotational basis for the two doctors is only up to yesterday, Dec. 30. He didn't say if the terms will be extended or not.

THC has a total of 15 nurses. It accommodates about 50 patients daily during regular working hours.

Tinian Health Center has been criticized for not having a permanent doctor. Many residents have been complaining about the lack of medical services at the center.

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'Hospital complaints, concerns new panel's top priority'

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board will form an ethics committee that will give review priority to all complaints lodged against the hospital, its personnel, and related services.

Acting board chair Pedro Dela Cruz and chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta disclosed this after Wednesday's board meeting, where they initially discussed the panel's creation.

The new committee will be composed of members of the corporation board and hospital staff, to be determined at their next meeting. The ethics committee, according to Dela Cruz, will function as a special committee within the board.

"The primary objective of this ethics committee is to review complaints against the hospital or some personnel—at all levels—from outside the community. We will take those complaints to this panel for review and will seek recommendation [for our decision]," Babauta said.

Dela Cruz and Babauta emphasized, however, that a formal letter of complaint or grievance must be submitted by the complainant in order for the complaint to be deemed valid. That way, the committee will be able to weed out frivolous claims and unfounded allegations, they said, adding that there's no way the panel will entertain complaints

from anonymous sources.

They promised that the committee would give a fair and objective review of all complaints before any action is taken by the board or the CEO.

The chairman cited complaints of unethical practices by certain doctors and nurses as among the examples of concerns that the panel will seriously deal with.

"Because of the smallness of our community, there is a familial relationship among us and therefore, it is prudent to conduct a fair and objective process [on issues and concerns that are brought to us]," said Dela Cruz.

According to Babauta, the review process by the ethics panel will be properly coordinated with the corporation's human resource office to ensure compliance with all the in-house policies and regulations.

At present, the CEO said there is a policy in place for dealing and addressing grievances.

Babauta disclosed that the corporation is also in the process of revisiting existing poli-

cies and regulation for possible amendments.


Despite serious concerns uncovered in the Commonwealth Health Center's operation and services as a result of lack of physicians and inadequate services, the then Department of Public Health

claimed that there were only a very few formal complaints that have been filed against the center—only five in 2009 and only one formal complaint in 2010.

Saipan Tribune learned that these complaints were received from the complaint boxes lo-

cated in different sections of the hospital. There are some years, however, when the complaint boxes remained empty.

The health department first enforced the policy for patients' grievances in 2005. (Moneth G. Deposa)



From the hearts of the
17th House of Representatives.

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ahead stay firm, turning all your dreams into reality & all your
efforts into great achievements.

From all of us at the House of Representatives

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Lawmakers joining Fitia in GOP; others yet to decide

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) and Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) confirmed yesterday that they will be joining Gov. Benigno R. Fitia in the Republican Party, while others said they have yet to decide whether to seek re-election in 2012 and under which political party. Others couldn't be reached for comment yesterday.

Fitia gave a Dec. 30 deadline to those he sent letters to or personally asked to join him in the GOP.

The governor is again president of the Republican Party, months after re-joining the party in January. He formed

his own Covenant Party in 2001 to support his gubernatorial bid, which he won in his second attempt.

In November, he asked lawmakers whether they want to seek re-election and whether they will run under the Republican Party.

Camacho said it's an "honor" to be asked by the governor to join his political party.

"Since the beginning, I've always wanted to join the majority and work with others too. Only through collaboration will we get things done. I indicated in my letter that I am willing to join the party if they accept me," said Camacho, adding that he sent the letter to the governor on Thursday.

Basa, in a separate interview, said he

was personally asked by the governor to consider joining him in the GOP.

"The last few weeks, I've been weighing my options," he said. "We're in a predicament. I respect the governor's decision to go back to the Republican Party because it's for the good of the people. Because he's a lifetime member of the Republican Party nationally, he could get more leverage for the CNMI," said Basa, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee.

He said it was a "very difficult decision to make" but at the end of the day, he said he decided to seek re-election and run under the Republican Party.

House minority leader Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) said yesterday that he is not ready to respond yet.

SAMOA

From Page 1

trolled American Samoa and the U.S. to assist their trading with California.

But the time zone has proved problematic in recent years, putting Samoa and Tokelau nearly a full day behind neighboring Australia and New Zealand, increasingly important trading partners.

In a bid to remedy that, the Samoan government passed a law in June that will move Samoa west of the international date line, which separates one calendar day from the next and runs roughly north-to-south through the middle of the Pacific Ocean. Under a government decree, all those scheduled to work on the nonexistent Friday will be given full pay for the

missed day of labor.

The time shift will be marked by the ringing of church bells across Samoa's two main islands, and prayer services in all the main churches of the devoutly Christian nation.

The government will also host a service for invited guests and dignitaries.

Nearby Tokelau, a three-atoll United Nations dependency, said it will join its neighbor in the date line dance to maintain its alignment with Samoa, three sailing days away, where its administration is based.

Tokelau's parliament, the Tokelau General Fono, recently voted to go ahead with the change, although it still has to complete all formalities for the date line switch, a New Zealand foreign ministry official said in Wellington on Thursday.

PALACIOS

From Page 1

him to continue the monthly \$150 payments to satisfy the judgment in the civil case.

The Bank of Saipan's civil case has been consolidated with the PTI civil case against Palacios.

At the hearing, attorney Michael White, counsel for Bank of Saipan, said that Palacios had been previously cited for contempt in the proceeding.

White said that Palacios disobeyed a court order on April 23, 2004, that directed him to make monthly payments on the \$6,411 remaining in the judgment. In that case, the court directed Palacios to explain on May 5, 2011, why he should not be held in contempt

for disobeying court orders.

Palacios failed to appear, White said, and again failed to show up at a Dec. 22, 2011, hearing, prompting the court to issue a bench warrant for his arrest.

White said that Palacios paid only \$300 in one year.

He asked the court to cite the lawmaker in contempt and put him in jail.

Palacios told the court he was making payments and that he even voluntarily came to court on Wednesday after learning that he was supposed to appear at the Dec. 22 hearing.

When asked why he paid only \$300 in one year despite not having to pay for phone, car, and gas as a lawmaker, Palacios cited his many loans and financial obligations.

Palacios told the media after the hearing that he has been paying \$300

per month in loan to Credit Union, \$450 per month to Bank of Guam, \$600 a month as child support, \$50 per month to Wells Fargo, and \$350 for apartment rent.

"After all the deductions, my take home is only \$212 a month," he said. "I'm really struggling financially."

He said he is receiving \$1,300 bi-weekly because of tax deductions.

The lawmaker said he is relieved that Wiseman decided not to put him in jail.

Palacios also clarified that although associate judge James N. Camacho remanded him into the custody of the Department of Corrections on Wednesday, he was not arrested and was released after posting \$250 cash bail.

Palacios said his "ice" case is really holding him back and that he

just wants to focus on his job as a lawmaker.

"I'm trying my very best to serve the people. I'm asking for their patience," he said.

When Palacios was brought to court on Oct. 31, 2011, after being arrested on trafficking of methamphetamine or "ice" charges, associate judge Perry B. Inos informed the lawmaker about an outstanding bench warrant issued against him on May 5, 2011, for failing to appear in court that day.

In that civil case, Inos released Palacios on his own recognizance and set the hearing for Dec. 1, 2011. Palacios appeared on Dec. 11, but the hearing was subsequently set to Dec. 22.

At the Dec. 11 hearing, Palacios failed again to appear. Wiseman orally issued a bench warrant for the arrest of

the lawmaker.

Palacios said when he learned that the hearing was Dec. 22 and not Dec. 29 as he had thought, he immediately contacted White and proceeded to court on Wednesday.

Palacios was not immediately arrested when he arrived in court Wednesday morning as Wiseman had yet to sign the bench warrant order. At the time, Wiseman had a trial on Tinian.

Judge Camacho signed the bench warrant for Wiseman then conducted the hearing.

Camacho reduced the \$500 cash bail to \$250 and directed a court deputy marshal to take Palacios into custody of the Department of Corrections.

After posting \$250 cash, Palacios was released from DOC at 1:45pm that day.

CROSSED

From Page 1

Seman said he hopes in 2012, the government would keep their promises.

"For example, they said they will release checks on time then later on they said some won't get their checks until next year but will continue to release checks. My family had to cut budget for the New Year's Eve dinner. No firecrackers this year. We were also depending on the rebate checks to pay our other bills. I have to work myself to death just to keep up with the payments and buy at least gifts for my children," he said.

He said he will come back again to the post office today, still hoping to have something in the mail.

"2012 is now knocking on the door but we don't have our 2010 checks year. If the delay continues, then maybe our economic situation will be worse next year," added Seman, a government employee.

But if it's any consolation, critical and non-critical government employees—mostly receiving 16-hour cuts biweekly because of austerity measures—got their paychecks yesterday, in time for the New Year revelry.

During this time last year, hundreds of locally funded government employees welcomed the New Year without receiving their paychecks.

Tata C., mother of a teen son, said outright: "I think the CNMI economy will get worse in 2012. We are not yet stable—our economy and our immigration. Businesses have higher costs."

She said government salary has not been increased while other benefits

such as holiday pay and night differential have been cut, and health insurance premium has gone up, along with the cost of food and other consumer goods.

As for welcoming the New Year, she said her household would only spend a few dollars on firecrackers. "That's only to satisfy my son's curiosity. After dinner, we will just watch the fireworks in Garapan," she said.

Despite the hardships of the past year and a harder year ahead, Tata C. said those working in government "should be thankful that at least they still have a job."

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the Fitia administration is hopeful that 2012 "will bring much needed improvements and revenues."

"However, it is also cognizant that maximum progress can only be achieved through concerted efforts with the Legislature. We will continue to work toward attracting serious and committed investors to do business in the Commonwealth. Ultimately, the administration's wish is to reach a point where the austerity measures can be either reduced or lifted so that families can increase their earnings. But to get there, it will take a lot of work and cooperation by our elected leaders," Demapan said.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP), for his part, said he prays that the CNMI sees some improvements in 2012, "but I cannot predict that the Northern Mariana Islands will completely emerge from our economic doldrums."

"What I can promise is that I shall continue to work hard to bring as much help as I can to our people and islands. What I can promise is that where Congress can help, I will make sure that it

does," he said.

House Ways and Means Committee chair Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) said while he wants to be optimistic, he also needs to be "realistic."

"This is a small island. You see businesses closing. That's a sign that resources will further go down," Basa said.

He said exacerbating the problem is "overspending."

"If they're talking about \$20 million deficit or overspending, for example, then isn't that a violation of the constitution because we don't have a balanced budget anymore. So \$102 million is not a balanced budget. And maybe next year's budget will be a lot less than \$100 million," Basa said.

Douglas Brennan, president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, said while he can't speak on behalf of the whole Chamber as of yet, at least for Microl Corp. he hopes a "status quo" in 2012 or "better than 2011."

"But it will be a struggle," said Brennan, manager of Microl Corp., which is the authorized dealer of Toyota vehicles in the CNMI.

He said Microl was hit by factors beyond their control, including the earthquake and tsunami in Japan that impacted their supply.

Brennan said federal tax will be a problem in 2012. He also hopes that the local and federal government will be able to agree on issues related to private sector workforce.

"I don't see anything on the horizon, or any influx in airline seats in 2012... The headache is... there's no plan of attack to attract investors. And everybody does their own thing," he added.

Mike Elayda, a foreign worker in the CNMI for nine years, said he was hoping to get his federal stimulus and

rebate check in the mail before the end of the year but there's none.

"We're expecting almost \$1,000. We would have used it to supplement our budget, buy food, buy some gifts, and prepare for *media noche* [midnight supper]," he said.

Elayda, who was at the post office in Chalan Kanoa along with his wife and children, said the whole family needs to be more practical that they had to cut by 50 percent their budget for welcoming the New Year.

"We need to hold on to our dollars. We don't know whether our CW will be granted. And even if the CW is granted, we still have to be mindful of the future. Maybe 2012 economy will be worse than it already is. There is smaller population, less revenue for businesses," the father of three said.

Rene Reyes, president of the Marianas Advocates for Humanitarian Affairs Ltd. or MAHAL, said while it's not a bad thing to "hope," long-term aliens who still cannot find legal jobs "should not hope too much on HR 1466."

"Hope if you must but be prepared as well if HR 1466 does not pass. Make good use of the one-year parole to prepare for the worst. Be thankful for Delegate Kilili for trying to help people, and for asking a one-year parole," said Reyes, who has been on Saipan for 22 years.

He also said people should also consider better opportunities outside the CNMI.

John Jugos, a private sector employee, said it's not even 2012 and he already sees his own paycheck getting leaner.

"FICA taxes is already deducted from my paycheck...About \$28 a month," he said, adding that this money could have gone to his grocery

shopping.

J.Y.S., a resident of As Lito, said she and the people close to her will welcome the New Year in a "quiet and solemn but meaningful" way.

The As Lito resident, who asked that her initials be used instead, said she will be attending the Saturday night Mass, especially because Father Ryan Jimenez is back.

"I pray for the people and the CNMI. I pray that people will change their attitude towards each other and love each other," said JYS, as she went grocery shopping at the Joeten Supermarket in Susupe. She said she will be preparing boiled corn and salmon.

The CNMI government's \$102-million budget shrunk to nearly the same level as it was 22 fiscal years ago. Government budget peaked at \$247 million in fiscal year 1997. It has since been almost downhill although Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said there are some "positive signs" for next year including a new airline and prospective investors in Marpi.

"At least it tells you that people are still interested in investing," he told reporters.

If federal immigration concerns do not taper off in 2012, businesses and employees will continue to experience uncertainty that will spill over to economic uncertainty.

"We can only hope for the best in 2012," said MAHAL's Reyes.

Besides a dismal economy, federal immigration uncertainties, high cost of fuel, shipping and consumer goods, and a shrinking population and consumer base, the CNMI also has to deal with its dying retirement system, improve its health services, prioritize public safety, generate additional revenues and survive another midterm election in 2012.

Oil pipeline project faces delay anew

» As construction manager left project

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The construction manager for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s new oil pipeline has left the project and this development is expected to cause another delay.

CUC legal counsel Deborah E. Fisher notified the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Thursday that without the construction manager, they believe this will delay the construction date, which they had been expecting to be Jan. 3, 2012.

"CUC is currently looking at alternatives, and would like to discuss this issue further and give further details during the site visit," said Fisher in the letter to designated district court judge David O. Carter and Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham.

Fisher disclosed that CUC is in contact with the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency and has also conferred with the U.S. Department of Justice.

"CUC is doing our best along with the contractor (with whom we have the construction management contract and for which the construction manager was a sub-contractor) to engage another construction manager as soon as possible," the CUC counsel said.

The CUC pipeline is an eight-inch aboveground receiving pipeline that delivers fuel to CUC power plants 1 and 2 in Lower Base from the Mobil oil facility.

EPA had stated that until the pipeline is properly repaired or replaced, it poses a threat to United States waters.

In October, EPA counsel Bradley O'Brien expressed misgiving that the new deadline of March 15, 2012, to finish the project is in danger

again despite the over \$2 million the U.S. Department of the Interior had provided CUC to build the new oil pipeline.

O'Brien had stated that CUC is now apparently proposing that it complete the pipeline project in May 2012—at the cusp of the typhoon season.

O'Brien said EPA continues to have concerns regarding CUC's management of this pipeline project and movement toward construction completion.

EPA and CUC first agreed to complete the project by Feb. 24, 2011. They agreed to have a new deadline by June 1, 2011. CUC completed the design, but failed to construct the pipeline by this extended deadline.

The latest deadline is March 15, 2012.

In response to O'Brien's concern, CUC asked the court to give it a three-week extension in total for the completion of the three-phased deadlines.



MAEDA ON THE MOVE

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Maeda Pacific Corp. president Tom Nielsen, left, turns over a \$1,850 check to Emilio Lim of National Office Supply and president of the Filipino Community of Guam as donation from the MPC's staff and management for the Typhoon Sendong Victims in the Philippines. Also in the picture are MPC general manager Miguel Rangel, second right, and MPC administrative manager Hironori Kikuchi, rightmost. MPC employees contributed \$850, while MPC itself donated \$1,000.

Judge to 11 defunct garment firms: Explain failure to prosecute tax suit

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has ordered the owners of 11 defunct garment manufacturers that sued the U.S. government to recover millions of dollars of allegedly wrongfully assessed taxes to explain why the court should not dismiss their lawsuit for lack of prosecution.

In her show-cause order issued Thursday, Manglona gave the former garment manufacturers until Jan. 12, 2012 to respond.

The judge noted that the case has been pending for more than a year without any action taken by the parties in that period.

"If a proceeding has been

pending for more than six months without any action taken by the parties during that period upon notice to the parties, the court may dismiss the proceeding for lack of prosecution," Manglona said, citing the Local Rules of Civil Procedure.

The 11 former garment factories filed the lawsuit in July 2010, through counsels Gregory J. Koebel and Alexis Fallon. The factories are seeking to recover allegedly wrongfully assessed Social Security and Medicare taxes (collectively called FICA) that were erroneously paid between 2004 and 2007.

Koebel and Fallon alleged in the complaint that the factories erroneously withheld the taxes from the wages of their then employees and paid to the U.S. government. The lawyers asked the court to order the

U.S. government to reimburse their clients of the employers' share of FICA taxes.

The former garment factories are the American Pacific Textile Inc., Grace International Inc., Handsome Textiles (Saipan) Corp., Hansae (Saipan) Inc., Marianas Garment Manufacturing Inc., Michigan Inc., Neo Fasheon Inc., Sam Kwang Saipan Corp. Top Fashion Corp., Uno Moda Corp., and U.S. CNMI Development Corp.

Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino, as well as the former Concorde Garment Manufacturing Corp. and numerous Chinese nationals formerly employed by Concorde and its affiliated companies, also filed last year separate but similar lawsuits against the U.S. government.

Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana Ofisinan I Gubietno Dipattamenton I Tano' Publiku

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

- The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot No. 047 L 02, containing an area of approximately 49,000 square meters, more or less, situated in Naftan, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.
- The prospective lessee is Eco Island Development, LLC. The Members of the Limited Liability Company are Mr. Herman P. Sablan and Ms. Shen Yen.
- The proposed lease was negotiated by Mr. Herman P. Sablan.
- The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of developing and managing a solar photovoltaic power plant.

The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years, with an option to extend the lease for an additional 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property.
- A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.
- The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Naftan, Saipan.
- The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before January 5, 2012 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIA PUT MAPROPONIN INEKSTENDIN INATKILON TANU' PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106(b) gi Lain Publiku 15-2, i Dipattamentun Tānu' Publiku guini ha nā'i nutisia ni intension-ña para u mana'ma'atila pumalu na tānu' publiku siha giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Marianas siha. Maseha hāyi na pattida siha gi halum i publiku henerat siha ha na'hālum i imfotmasion, opiñon, pat testamoñun kinentra siha gi tinahguin propositu siha ni para i atkilon tānu' publiku. Sigi mās mo'na mapribeniyi ginin i Lain Publiku 15-2, i tinattitiyi pettanesin imfotmasion ni madimānda ni debi na u mapupblika.

- I maproponi na atkilon tānu' publiku ha diskribi kumu Lot No. Lot No. 047 L 02, ni kinonsisti āria kāsī guaha 49,000 square meters, mās pat menus, ni gaigi giya Naftan, Saipan. I kopian i lugāt gaigi gi pumalu na gumuaha gi Dipattamentun Tānu' Publiku siha ni para i rikunosimientu.
- I manatikikila i Eco Island Development, LCC. I miembru siha gi Liability Company si Siñot Herman P. Sablan yan si Siñora Shen Yen.
- I maproponi na atkilon manigosiu gi as Siñot Herman P. Sablan.
- I manatikikila debi na u kuntuha umusa i lugāt siha uniku para i hinangai adilāntu yan minanehan solar photovoltaic power plant.

I teman i maproponi na kuntrātan atkilon sa' 25 āñus, yan option para u ma'ekstendi i atkilon gi ta'lu 15 āñus.

I maproponi na āpas atkilon gi sakkan gi durāntin i tema sigun gi percentage gi appraised fair market value gi propiedāt.
- Kopian i manmaproponi na kontrātan atkilon siha machuli' gi ufisinan i Dipattamentun Tānu' Publiku siha, gaigi gi sigundu bibienda 2nd floor gi Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan; gi Songsong Village, Luta; pat i primet 1st bibienda gi Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.
- I Dipattamentun Tanu' Publiku siha tāya' na ha risibi tinahguin propositu siha para sinuhetun atkilon tanu' publiku siha giya Naftan, Saipan.
- I Sekretāriun i Dipattamentun Tanu' Publiku siha debi na u aksepti i tinigi' i imfotmasion, opiñon yan testamoñun kinentra pat tinahguin propositu siha ginin i manggai interes na pattida siha gi pat āntis di Ineru (January) 5, 2012 gi ufisinan Dipattamentun Tānu' Publiku siha ni gaigi Saipan, Luta, pat Tinian.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sāngi Tālil ye 106(b) mellól Alléghul Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, ekke atotoowow ammatat igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Seipel, Commonwealth Téel Falúwasch Marianas. Schóókka remuschál emwal rebwe isisilong jaar mángháng, data awewee, me angingi reel pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap. Sengi Alléghul Toulap ye 15-2, ebwal ayoora, lamal awewee kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatééló.

- Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap nge ekke bwáari Lot No. 047 L 02 ebwe yoor faaigh me tiwoow saangaras lapal (49,000 square meters) elapeló me ngäre eghús, elo Naftan, Seipel. Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngäre óubwe ghuley fischiy.
- Schéschéél schóól akkilon nge Eco Islands Development, LLC. Membrol Limited Liability Company yeel nge Mr. Herman P. Sablan me Ms. Shen Yen.
- Schóól awewee akkilon yel nge Mr. Herman P. Sablan.
- Schóól akkilon ebwe yááyá falúw yeel rel ebwe ayoora me mwóghutagheli solar photovoltaic power plant.

Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon nge reweigh me limoow ráagh (25 years). Emmwel rebwe bwal sóóbwey ngáli seigh me limoow ráagh (15 years).

Pomwol méél akkilon lól ráagh kka re akkili nge ebwe mwiril sāngi percentage il yaal appraised fair market value il falúw.

Tilighial akkilon yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwughi merel bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llól Tuturam, Seipél; Songsong village, Luuta; me ngäre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.
- Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáal bweibwogh mwo pomwol akkilon ye elo Naftan, Seipél.
- Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughi ischil mángháng, aingingil merel amweyút mmwal Eneero (January) 5, 2012 mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta, Tchúlúyól.

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Finally, polluters pay

Without any last-minute meddling by the White House, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency last week published a long-awaited final rule strictly limiting how much mercury, arsenic, hydrochloric acid and other deadly toxins coal-fired and oil-fired power plants can spew into the air.

The rule will save America billions more dollars in health care costs than industry will pay to comply with it, to say nothing of the suffering it will spare children, adults and families by reducing the avoidable deaths, developmental disabilities and disease caused or worsened by exposure to the plants' poisons.

The utility, coal, oil and chemical industries waged a long and brutal fight against the anti-pollution rule, which took more than 20 years to enact. Their tactics included warnings of huge costs, skyrocketing electricity rates, massive job losses and even possible regional blackouts, none of which were justified by objective data analyses.

Even so, that strategy bore fruit earlier this year when President Barack Obama canceled an EPA rule that would have tightened allowable emissions of substances that produce the deadly pollutant ozone. Instead, he put off consideration of the rule until 2013 at the earliest.

But when it came to the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards rule, as it's officially called, the scare tactics didn't work. The president endorsed the EPA's action as "a major step forward" in the protection of public health and the environment.

More than half of existing power plants already meet the standards with widely available technology. Those that don't will have three years (and up to five years, if necessary) to come into compliance.

Some older plants—built a half-century ago or more—may have to shut down because it is impractical to retrofit them with the necessary pollution-control systems. But many of those plants are at or near the end of their functional life cycles anyway and may well have ceased operations even without the new rules.

The generating capacity of some other coal-fired plants may be replaced with natural gas units that are cleaner and more economical than those that burn coal.

According to a recent survey by the Associated Press, 32 power-generating units out of approximately 1,400 in the United States will have to close by 2014 or 2015 because they won't meet the MATS rule and the EPA's new Cross-State Air Pollution rule, which begins phasing in Jan. 1. Another 36 units might have to close, the AP reported. The cross-state rule regulates emissions of sulfur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen that cross state lines and pollute areas downwind from power plants. It affects generating units in 28 states east of the Rocky Mountains.

When Congress passed the Clean Air Act amendments of 1990, coal-fired power plants were exempted from standards that applied to other kinds of polluters. The law required a lengthy process that was often delayed to determine if power-plant pollution should be regulated at all.

As the process inched ahead, ordinary Americans, businesses that insured their workers and government programs bore the cost of the health damage caused by the toxic substances the plants pumped into the air.

Finally, after more than two decades, the cost of controlling those pollutants is shifting, as it should, to the polluters.

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Peace on Earth

We are not a bit sentimental about the title phrase as wishful thinking, nor does the romantic in us fail to see the reality of a world tearing itself at the seams.

This is the time of the season when the little girl realizes that Santa did not improve her lot and is told by Mom that she was too young to join the adults in egg-nog-in' it to New Year. So she hies off to bed, recites her Lord's Prayer with carefully pronounced words: "Forgive us of our Christmases as we forgive those who Christmas against us."

An acquaintance opts for a different reading of the old season's greetings: "Peace on Earth, goodwill to all," to "Peace on Earth, to all of goodwill," the assumption being that certain people are not of goodwill, and are thereby, justifiably excluded. Why, some of my fellow human rights activists even object to the UN flag being lowered at half-mast on Kim Jong Il's passing!

We are at the end of the 365.25-day cycle when the Earth completes a journey around the sun. It is not a return to the same position as it was one revolution back, nor does the revolving orb remain the same in that whole period of time. Our time consciousness moves forward, though not with a predetermined destination, and nor does it repeat itself. In fact, it is susceptible to change, amenable to human choices.

It was a convenient time measure that the people by the Nile devised to anticipate the pattern of inundation (not much rain in lower Egypt but the flooding from rains in the upper Nile was devastating and predictable, which led to faith and religion, astrology and science) leading them to the cycle of flooding, planting, and harvesting, from whence our calendar came when Julius Caesar brought it out of Egypt into Rome.

We have been uncharacteristically sensitive these yearend to those who arrived at the terminus of their lives. Centenarians flourished including a German at 102, a ukelelist with a Filipino sounding name of Bill Tapia at 103 (who could also be a Pacific Islander who missed the whole debacle of the refined sugar), a Canadian-Asian at 112, and a Singapura-Chinese at 113. A Russian rocket designer made it at 99; might have checked in early with the vodka. Many young ones succumbed to athletic injuries as well as traffic accidents, but Ms. Venezuela 2000 was KO'd by cancer.

Science with its genetic engineering is now predicting that we might have 150-year-olds in 50 years! Why the rush for longevity when we cannot even handle the quality of the here-and-now! Immigration lawyer Ted Laguatan made it to our fear-filled shores as deportation count rises along with the blood pressure. Abramoff is back big time, but Lang and Uncle Ben do not look good. Ah, we'll reserve this thread for another time.

Across the Atlantic is the forgotten playwright and activist of the velvet (to Czechs) and gentle (to Slovaks) Czechoslovakian revolution of '89, and the reluctant presider over the dissolution of Czechoslovakia in '93, memorialized this month. An acclaimed man of peace, Havel Vaclav went unnoticed in gently passing at 75.

By **JAIME VERGARA**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.



Apple's Steve Jobs' sister recalled his last moments at 56 as an achievement to the last breath, which makes us wonder why we rational humans are not more intentional about our going, whatever circumstances the exit may be. Death remains under cover yet none of us solitarily are excused from claiming it our own.

I travel to my mother in Oahu who is heading towards 92. Her pathos got aired by my brother's ears when, sitting on the floor on the dampness of a no-longer controllable bladder, she murmured: "Please do not send me to a nursing home!" Somehow, that sense of pride and self-dignity makes her remaining years worth breathing for. Sadly, not many get the chance to express such sentiments to their offspring, and those who do so find children railing at the State structures for its failure to provide the social service their kin provided in the past and feel guilty for not wanting to provide themselves today.

The cycle spirals onward. Here in China, prodigious baby making transpired this year. The Year of the Dragon is an auspicious time to bear children, and the red that normally accompanies the fireworks of the Lunar New Year is anticipated to be more resplendent this year than the previous one.

Meanwhile, we are a third of the way on the season of *Dong Zhi*, the 30-day period between the winter solstice and the advent of Spring. 'Tis the period of real winter, according to the elderly *Zhongguoren*, who in this northeast corner of the Asian mainland used to carve ice lanterns outside their homes to guide spirits in the night (including those who downed too much *bai duo*), and leave a rather comforting aesthetics to the calm and crispy air before the dawn. Urbanization, alas, rapidly crept into the farmland and the lanterns have given way to the fluorescent bulb!

That pretty much sums up our sentiment in this turn of the Nile water cycle. We've watched the turning in Tunisia, Libya, and Egypt with Yemen, Syria, and Iran cauldrons of manipulated change. The Mayan 2012 frenzy amuses as, and we echo Alice Walker:

I will keep broken things:

Thank you so much!

I will keep Broken Things.

I will keep you:

Pilgrim Of Sorrow.

I will keep myself.

With Zorba and *Dong Bei*, we dance!

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Oops! That was the year that wasn't

A year ago, soon after the Tunisian uprising, I demonstrated my powers of prediction in a column about the democracy movement in the Arab world. The revolution in Tunisia, I wrote, "arose from local circumstances that don't foretell what will happen anywhere else." Three weeks later, Egypt's Hosni Mubarak fell, and the Arab Spring was in full bloom.

This brings me to the subject of today's column: A confession of my year's errors and omissions (along with a mention of one or two things I got right).

It was Rick Perry who led me astray in domestic politics. If it hadn't been for the Texas governor, I might have had a pretty good year. But I surrendered to the temptation to try to pick a winner early in the Republican presidential nomination saga—way back in August.

Back then, Perry looked as if he had it all. He was the nation's longest-serving governor, presiding over a state with enviable job growth. He was a fearsomely successful politician who had won many tough elections. Every Texas pundit I consulted agreed: Perry was the real deal.

"There's been a hole on the right-hand side of the Republican field, and Perry appears to fit right into it," I wrote confidently in August.

"His rawboned Texas rhetoric, railing against Washington's 'interference' in the affairs of small town America, may frighten voters in the center, but it's right in tune with the tea party. ... If Rick Perry rises to the occasion, we might be looking at a two-man race."

I certainly got the "if" part right. Perry didn't rise to the occasion. The six debates from Sept. 7 to Nov. 9 were his undoing. First he called Social Security a Ponzi scheme; then, defending in-state college tuition for the children of illegal immigrants, he derided anyone who disagreed as "heartless"; and, in a fatal self-inflicted wound, he couldn't remember the name of one of the three federal Cabinet

departments he wanted to abolish.

"Oops," the governor said in explaining his lapse.

That's my excuse too. How was I to know this savvy politician would show up at national debates so ill-prepared for the tough questions he would face?

And Perry wasn't the only object of my misguided enthusiasm. If you read my column back in March, you might have thought that former Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty (remember him?) was the candidate to watch.

Pawlenty "has built a solid following among conservatives in Iowa," I wrote, only a few months before he bombed in the Iowa straw poll. (In my defense, I did note, presciently, that he was also "colorless and charisma-free.")

After Pawlenty faded, I placed a bet on another conservative hope, Rep. Michele Bachmann. "Don't underestimate her," I counseled in June. "She's hard-core, but she's no flake." That turned out to be only about half right.

I was wholly right about at least one thing: that Newt Gingrich would turn out to be one of the most interesting candidates in the race.

"He'll make the debates sharper," I predicted in May. "He may force other candidates who seek safety in ambiguity into more clarity."

Still, I didn't expect him to be as big a challenge to Romney as he now appears to be.

Nor did I expect Rep. Ron Paul, R-Texas, to hold a chance of winning in Iowa's caucuses. I'm still willing, however, to go out on a limb and say that Paul won't win the nomination.

Back in Washington, my home turf, I underestimated the determination of tea party Republicans to dig in their heels and resist compromises on the federal budget. And I overestimated House Speaker John A. Boehner's ability to bring his conservative members into

By **DOYLE MCMANUS**

Los Angeles Times

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line behind the deals he kept trying to cut.

"On the easy decisions—short-term spending and the debt ceiling—the freshmen are gradually being housebroken," I wrote in March. "Many of them now seem open to compromises, as long as they include sizable spending cuts. And they've largely accepted Boehner's argument that they shouldn't block an increase in the nation's borrowing power."

Wrong! As we now know, the tea party members rebelled against Boehner—several times—and held the debt ceiling hostage all the way until August.

What else did I get right? I forecast that Sarah Palin wouldn't run. And I bravely predicted that Donald Trump, if he ran, wouldn't win—a judgment that drew a scrawled warning from Trump, via fax, that I would soon eat my words.

That ought to count for something.

The lesson, for readers, is easy: Never believe predictions—especially about the future, especially from pundits, and especially about elections that are months away.

With that off my chest, here's this week's forecast: Romney's going to win the Republican nomination. He might even clinch it by the Florida primary on Jan. 31. Conservatives who grumbled about him in 2011 will unite behind him in 2012. And then, in November, either Romney or President Obama will win a very close election. You can take it to the bank.

Making resolutions? Put libido power to work

As the new year approaches, so too does a vast armada of New Year's resolutions, their eager sails full of wind on the bright horizon. Sadly, most of these proud vessels will sink before the month of January has ended, taking with them their precious cargo of hope. The reason is that, like merchant ships preyed upon by pirates, they're unarmed.

Big mistake.

This year, give your resolutions some firepower. If you really want to change your life, you have to make it practically impossible to avoid doing so. And that in turn is another excuse for me to talk about one of my favorite topics: commitment devices.

What's a commitment device? Any technique you can use to bind yourself tomorrow to the wishes you happen to have today. The great orator Demosthenes, for example, forced himself into seclusion (the better to sharpen his rhetoric) by shaving half his head, making it too embarrassing to go anyplace. Victor Hugo, determined to stay in and write, had his valet take his clothes. My nerdy hobby is collecting such tactics, and my new favorite is a service called Gym-Pact, which will let you specify how often you want to get to the gym—and what penalty to impose on yourself (at least \$5 a day) if you fall short.

Starting in the new year, the company says, you can download a smartphone app that tells Gym-Pact when you've been to the gym.

The company will rely on a database of more than 40,000 facilities in conjunction with the global positioning system.

You'd think merely joining an expensive health club would motivate exercise—Freud himself said that fees are therapeutic, although of course he was biased—but once this money is paid, it's too easy to mentally write it off. Gym-Pact strives to make each lapse costly.

Exercise isn't the only subject of New Year's resolutions. But you can raise the cost of breaking almost any resolution via stickk.com, which will charge you for practically any failing you choose.

If you prefer to give your resolutions sharper teeth without resorting to the Internet, by all means rely on family and friends. Telling everyone you know that you've decided to quit smoking, for instance, will mean embarrassment if you start puffing again, and that's not a bad deterrent. Better yet, tell yourself—and everyone else—that if you decide to light up, you'll only do so using a \$20 bill. Surely the sight of Andrew Jackson going up in flames will discourage you. The danger (aside from self-immolation) is that you'll come to see this as a tolerable cost, and keep right on smoking.

Local charities ought to offer commitment devices as a way of raising money. Imagine if your local Elks lodge or PTA held a gala public weigh-in every New Year's Day. If you gained weight from one year to the next, you could pay whatever you'd pledged per pound.

By **DANIEL AKST**

Newsday

Daniel Akst, a columnist for Newsday, is the author of *We Have Met the Enemy: Self-Control in an Age of Excess* from Penguin Press.



Commitment devices rely on penalties and rewards, the stronger the better—which makes it puzzling that sex is so infrequently used in this way, at least as far as I know. Marital therapists, hold your fire; I'm not suggesting people grant or withhold it to get what they want, although that's certainly a time-honored tactic.

Think of the ancient comedy "Lysistrata," in which the women of Greece banded together to withhold sex until the men ended the Peloponnesian War. I'm simply suggesting that a person writing a book might authorize a significant other to veto sex on any day two pages or more weren't produced. The sedentary could commit to the same on any day the pedometer didn't show an extra three miles.

You get the picture. I leave it to readers to imagine subtler ways of using this approach for self-improvement. If nothing else, it'll take your mind off whatever you plan on giving up in the new year.

One year to the apocalypse—or not

We recently passed an important milestone in the world's spiritual calendar, and I'm not just talking about the fact that "being a Republican deciding whom to vote for in the presidential primary" officially replaced purgatory as the next worst thing to being in hell.

I'm talking about the end of the universe, and the fact that if you believe a lot of vague, New Age suppositions about the calendar of the ancient Mayans, it's now approximately one year away.

To be clearer, Dec. 21, 2012, signifies the end of a 5,125-year cycle in the Mesoamerican Long Calendar. No one with the tiniest morsel of credibility has claimed it signals anything catastrophic, and for good reason. Believing that approaching the back end of a Mayan year-counting scheme signals danger would be as crazy as believing that the end of one of our calendar millennia signals impending doom, and that's just ... well, fairly common, actually.

Regardless, you will hear about this date a lot over the next year because while experts say it means nothing, lots of folks with no credentials of any kind disagree, if only as a way to make a buck. More than 50 million people are expected to visit historically Mayan regions of Mexico this year. I myself may market comfy cotton tops emblazoned with "The Universe Was Destroyed in a Fiery Ball of Pagan-God Invoked Apocalypse, and All I Got Was This Lousy T-Shirt."

Regardless, contemplating the possibility that we have just a year left is interesting. Creating the "bucket list" of things we'd do in our final 12 months is one of life's great pleasures, but the "end of the world" list differs from the "terminal disease" plan.

For one thing, I've always kept a tally in my head of "People I would kill if I had a terminal disease." After a school career spent as a poorly dressed dweeb, 15 years as a journalist and some drive time on the Long Island Expressway, I've encountered folks who need whacking. But if the world's going to end and God will smite my enemies (along with my friends, and me), why waste time on this?

The "end of the world" plan also has to be different from the "deadly cancer" list because you're going to look so much sillier if it doesn't pan out. If, told by a team of doctors that the end is near, you blow \$211,000 in Vegas, sky-dive, dye your hair purple, streak at a Giants game and pierce your eyelid, and then don't die, people will be glad. They'll write off your foolishness as legitimate.

But if you quit your job, blow the family's nest egg, cavort until all hours of the night with characters of ill repute and generally make an ass of yourself because the world is going to end, and it doesn't end, you're like that wild-eyed survivalist dude from Y2K. Remember him? Sank all his money into a bomb shelter, guns, bottles of water and 55-gallon barrels of Marshmallow Fluff, then got

By **LANE FILLER**

Newsday

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stuck with a very expensive camping setup and a very angry family when everything worked fine in the year 2000.

Even though you probably don't have a terminal disease, and you likely aren't convinced the world is going to end on Dec. 21, 2012, you should still have a bucket list, because whatever you put on it is what you ought to be doing anyway.






If the list of things you would do to make the final year of your life count is really, really different from your life today, you're doing life wrong. If you want to sky-dive, do it. If you want to open a bakery, do it. If you wouldn't spend your last year with your spouse, why spend next year with your spouse?

I pretty much have the life I want. If I didn't, I'd change. If you don't, you should change. And you shouldn't wait for cancer or Mayan calendars to grant you permission.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

| TODAY | SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY |
|---|---|---|--|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. |
| ▲ 87° ▼ 76° | ▲ 87° ▼ 76° | ▲ 87° ▼ 76° | ▲ 87° ▼ 76° | ▲ 87° ▼ 76° |

Micronesia

| | | |
|---------------|----------------|-----------|
| Guam and Rota | Thundershowers | ▲ 84 ▼ 78 |
| Palau | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 86 ▼ 77 |
| Yap | Mostly Cloudy | ▲ 87 ▼ 77 |
| Chuuk | Mostly Sunny | ▲ 86 ▼ 79 |
| Pohnpei | Showers | ▲ 84 ▼ 79 |
| Kosrae | Showers | ▲ 84 ▼ 79 |
| Majuro | Thunderstorms | ▲ 85 ▼ 79 |

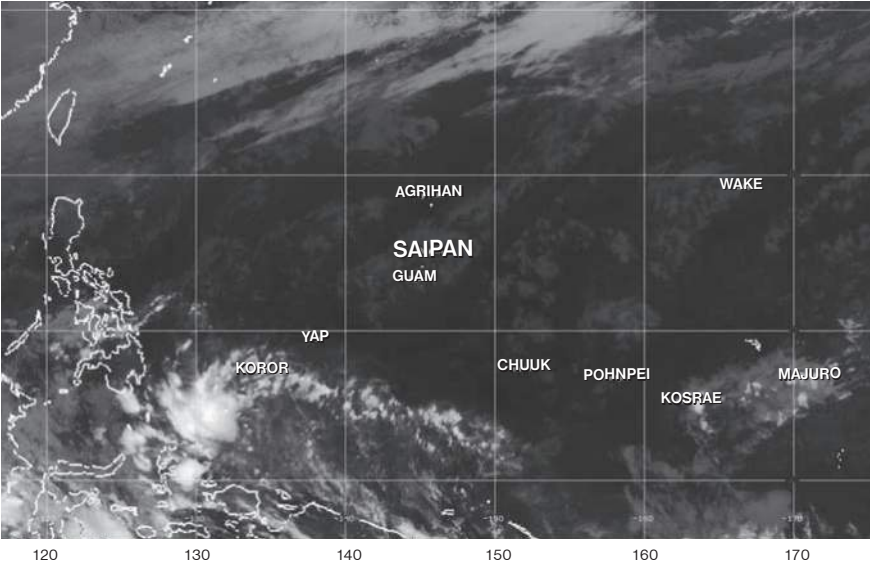
Around The Globe

| | | |
|----------------|---------------|-----------|
| Auckland | Showers | ▲ 72 ▼ 68 |
| Beijing | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 36 ▼ 18 |
| Hong Kong | Sunny | ▲ 69 ▼ 62 |
| Honolulu | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 81 ▼ 70 |
| London | Cloudy | ▲ 56 ▼ 51 |
| Los Angeles | Sunny | ▲ 75 ▼ 47 |
| Manila | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 85 ▼ 74 |
| Melbourne | Mostly Sunny | ▲ 92 ▼ 62 |
| Miami | Sunny | ▲ 80 ▼ 63 |
| New York | Showers | ▲ 52 ▼ 33 |
| Osaka | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 52 ▼ 41 |
| Paris | Showers | ▲ 54 ▼ 48 |
| Pusan | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 47 ▼ 29 |
| Rome | Mostly Sunny | ▲ 56 ▼ 37 |
| Salem | Mostly Cloudy | ▲ 43 ▼ 35 |
| San Francisco | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 64 ▼ 44 |
| Seoul | Snow | ▲ 34 ▼ 20 |
| Tokyo | Mostly Sunny | ▲ 51 ▼ 36 |
| Washington, DC | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 54 ▼ 37 |

Tides

| Saipan Harbor | | | |
|---------------|-------|------------|----------|
| 5:57 AM | Today | Low Tide: | 0.4 Feet |
| 12:38 PM | Today | High Tide: | 1.8 Feet |
| 7:29 PM | Today | Low Tide: | 0.7 Feet |

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line extends southwestward from northeast of Wake Island at 25N170E across Pagan in the CNMI at 18N146E to end at 17N138E. Cloudiness and patchy light rain are occurring along and up to 250 miles northwest of this boundary. A surface trough runs northeastward from 12N146E to 19N152E. Widely scattered showers are occurring over the southern Marianas near the trough axis or within 145 miles of a line from 12N146E to 19N151E. A near-equatorial trough reaches southeastward from Mindanao through 4N130E to end at EQ140E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found over Koror but just south of Yap or south of a line from 9N130E to 9N140E farther east. Trade-wind convergence near the eastern end of the trough is creating scattered showers southwest of Chuuk within 115 miles of a line from 7N140E to 2N150E. Converging trade winds are causing scattered showers over Majuro and Butaritari atolls between 2N and 9N from 166E to 180.

Sunrise/Sunset

| | | |
|-----------|---------|---------|
| Today | 6:42 AM | 5:57 PM |
| Sunday | 6:43 AM | 5:57 PM |
| Monday | 6:43 AM | 5:58 PM |
| Tuesday | 6:44 AM | 5:59 PM |
| Wednesday | 6:44 AM | 5:59 PM |

Moonrise/Moonset

| | | |
|-----------|----------|----------|
| Today | 11:14 AM | 11:43 PM |
| Sunday | 11:50 AM | |
| Monday | 12:28 PM | 12:30 AM |
| Tuesday | 1:07 PM | 1:18 AM |
| Wednesday | 1:49 PM | 2:07 AM |

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 6, 2011

| DEPARTURES | ARRIVALS |
|--|--|
| GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) C05062 2:10am 2:40am 1, 5 | ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) C05064 5:15am 5:45am 1, 5 |
| SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP) C05064 4:15am 4:50am 1, 5 | ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN) C05062 3:10am 3:45am 1, 5 |
| SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) C05070 4:15am 5:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05068 8:25am 9:15am Daily C05074 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05076 3:10pm 4:00pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 6:50pm 7:40pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 7:00pm 7:50pm 3, 6 C05072 9:55pm 10:45pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05072 10:05pm 10:55pm 3, 6 | GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN C05062 2:10am 3:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05071 7:00am 7:50am Daily C05073 10:05am 10:55am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05075 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:30pm 6:20pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:40pm 6:30pm 3, 6 C05079 8:35pm 9:25pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05079 8:45pm 9:35pm 3, 6 |
| SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:35am Daily DL297 4:35pm 7:20pm Daily | NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily |
| SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily | SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 |
| SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:35am 7:05am 4, 7 | BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 3, 6 |
| SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6 | GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5 |
| SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7 | SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05070/191 4:35am 9:45am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/173 6:00am 10:25pm Daily via NRT C05068/183 8:25am 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05068/183 8:25am 9:40pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:40pm 1, 4, 7 via GUM C05076/193 3:10pm 11:00pm 2, 5 via GUM-Palau OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN C05072/PR111 9:55pm 7:50am+1 1, 5, 7 via GUM C05072/PR111 10:05pm 7:50am+1 3, 6 via GUM | MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily via ICN DL172/288 8:00am 1:15am+1 Daily via NRT C0190/5077 10:55am 6:30pm 3, 6 via GUM C0190/5079 10:55am 9:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C05071 10:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 5, 7 via GUM C0192/5071 10:25pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM-Palau C0184/5071 11:10pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM C0184/5071 11:59pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM |
| SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 12:00pm 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 12:00pm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05076/179 3:10pm 10:25pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/723 3:20pm 10:30pm Daily via ICN OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm 1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN | HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ724/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ750/603 1:10am 2:20pm 1, 2, 4, 6 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN C0180/5071 11:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 5 via GUM |
| LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana | |
| ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.) | |

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

| Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency | Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency |
|----------------------|-------|-------|-----------|----------------------|-------|-------|-----------|
| Guam-Rota | | | | FRE 115 | 13:00 | 13:10 | Daily |
| FRE 100 | 7:30 | 8:00 | Daily | FRE 117 | 14:30 | 14:40 | Daily |
| Rota-Saipan | | | | FRE 119 | 16:00 | 16:10 | Daily |
| FRE 100 | 8:20 | 8:50 | Daily | FRE 121 | 16:40 | 16:50 | Daily |
| Guam-Rota | | | | FRE 123 | 17:40 | 17:50 | Daily |
| FRE 300 | 17:00 | 17:30 | Daily | FRE 125 | 18:30 | 18:40 | Daily |
| Rota-Saipan | | | | | | | |
| FRE 1750 | 17:50 | 18:20 | Daily | Tinian-Saipan | | | |
| Saipan-Rota | | | | FRE 102 | 7:05 | 7:15 | Daily |
| FRE 200 | 9:30 | 10:00 | Daily | FRE 104 | 7:50 | 8:00 | Daily |
| Rota-Guam | | | | FRE 106 | 8:20 | 8:30 | Daily |
| FRE 1020 | 10:20 | 10:45 | Daily | FRE 108 | 9:00 | 9:10 | Daily |
| Saipan-Rota | | | | FRE 110 | 10:00 | 10:10 | Daily |
| FRE 400 | 18:55 | 19:25 | Daily | FRE 112 | 11:05 | 11:15 | Daily |
| Rota-Guam | | | | FRE 114 | 12:00 | 12:10 | Daily |
| FRE 400 | 19:40 | 20:10 | Daily | FRE 116 | 13:30 | 13:40 | Daily |
| Saipan-Tinian | | | | FRE 118 | 14:50 | 15:00 | Daily |
| FRE 101 | 6:45 | 6:55 | Daily | FRE 120 | 16:20 | 16:30 | Daily |
| FRE 103 | 7:30 | 7:40 | Daily | FRE 122 | 17:00 | 17:10 | Daily |
| FRE 105 | 8:00 | 8:10 | Daily | FRE 124 | 18:05 | 18:15 | Daily |
| FRE 107 | 8:40 | 8:50 | Daily | FRE 126 | 18:50 | 19:00 | Daily |
| FRE 109 | 9:10 | 9:20 | Daily | | | | |
| FRE 111 | 10:45 | 10:55 | Daily | | | | |



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

The Babauta administration has temporarily extended for tonight the number of hours that restaurants, hotels, nightclubs, and bars can serve alcoholic drinks, as the CNMI joins the world in ushering in the New Year. These establishments can sell and serve alcoholic beverages up to 4am on Jan. 1, 2004, according to a special notice that Commerce Secretary Fermin Atalig issued yesterday. The extended hours are only for the evening of Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2003, until 4am on Thursday, the notice adds. Jesus C. Muna of the Alcohol Beverage and Tobacco Control Division said the extended hours strictly apply only to Class-3 On-Sale establishment operators such as bars, nightclubs, hotels, and restaurants.

Maharlika

Filipinos in NMI look forward to 2012 with optimism

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

New Year has always been one of the most anticipated and festive occasions in the Philippines. Filipinos follow various customs and traditions beginning New Year's Eve until midnight to usher in another year filled with hopes and expectations.

More than the lighting of fireworks, preparation of a bountiful *media noche* feast, and jumping as high as you can (arising from superstition that doing so on new year's day will make one grow taller), New Year celebration for Filipinos is a time spent best with families and loved ones, leaving behind the year that was and looking ahead with much exuberance.

With Filipinos in the CNMI, the difficulties and challenges that they weathered together in 2011 have taught them to be more appreciative and think about their betterment as a whole.

Carlito J. Marquez, who works as a health, safety, and environ-

ment office and project manager at Pacific Marine and Industrial Corp., said that 2011 was a tough year for the Filipino community in the Commonwealth because of the implementation of the final rule for foreign workers. Still, he said, there were many positive developments since then, something which Filipinos and other foreign workers should be thankful for.

"I'm hopeful that with the release and implementation of the regulations, businesses would begin efforts to expand to improve our economy," Marquez told *Saipan Tribune*. "I would like to be positive about the coming year and I hope others would do the same."

Marquez, who will have a "simple" holiday celebration with his family, is also wishing for good health not just for himself and loved ones but also for all Filipinos.

A mother of three who will have her 14th celebration of New Year on island said she looks forward to doing what she and her husband have been accustomed

to doing at this occasion such as putting together round-shaped fruits and preparing seafood and soup dishes for good luck.

"I wish for more blessings for next year, which I hope will be more peaceful and prosperous for all. I pray for good health especially for my 69-year-old mother who has survived cancer. I hope there will be fewer disasters and tragedies in our country. For us here in the CNMI, I hope all of us will get the improved status we've been waiting for," she said.

Vergie Cordova, 52, said she will be spending New Year with her housemates and friends as her daughter is in the Philippines. She plans to prepare any dish with round ingredients and clank pots and pans to bring in good fortune.

"With the year 2011 about to end, I hope that we all leave our sorrows and problems behind and look forward to 2012 with hope knowing that the Lord is with us. We should try to make amends with family, friends, or co-workers with whom we

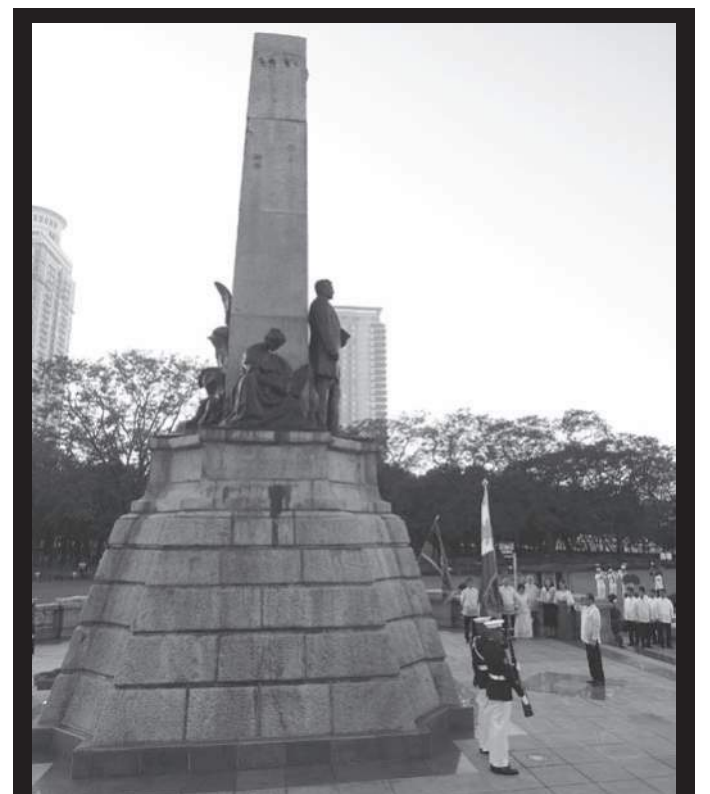
had squabbles and have a new beginning in the coming year," said the Sadog Tasi resident.

A Chinatown resident said she is happy to celebrate the New Year with her 18-year-old daughter, a University of Guam student who is on vacation for the holidays.

"We'll probably dine out and enjoy a countdown party so we can both have a good time. I'm really excited," she said.

She said she misses New Year celebrations back in their family home in Angono, Rizal where she and the rest of their clan would go to the third floor of their house and watch the loud and colorful fireworks that light the sky at the stroke of midnight.

"My personal wish is for my daughter to continue to do well in her studies to maintain her scholarship. My wish for all long-term Filipinos in the CNMI is for them to be granted the status that we've been fighting for. I would be grateful if that happens because it will allow me and my daughter to be together again," she said.



115TH ANNIVERSARY

Philippine President Benigno Aquino III, right, salutes in front of the monument of Jose Rizal during rites to commemorate the 115th Anniversary of the Martyrdom of Jose Rizal in Manila, Philippines on Friday, Dec. 30, 2011.

AP



PHOTO COURTESY OF WASHINGTON EMBASSY WEBSITE

Philippine Ambassador to the U.S. Jose L. Cuisia Jr., center, convenes heads of the Philippine Consulates General across the U.S. for a planning session for the Philippine Foreign Service posts (FSPs) in the U.S. at the Philippine Embassy in Washington, D.C. on Dec. 7 and 8.

PH consuls, envoys map out diplomatic goals for 2012

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Consul General Medardo Macaraig joined other heads of Philippine Consulates General in the United States for a planning session for Philippine Foreign Service posts or FSPs convened by Philippine Ambassador to the U.S. Jose L. Cuisia Jr. at the Philippine Embassy in Washington, D.C. on Dec. 7 and 8.

The Washington Embassy website reported that Cuisia communicated to the consuls the priority areas identified by President Benigno S. Aquino III for the Philippine diplomatic and consular missions in the United States such as the enhancement of economic diplomacy, promoting national security, and protecting the rights of Filipinos overseas.

The meeting enumerated specific activities and targets for the goals that would serve as the FSPs' workplan for 2012 and discussed means to enhance the delivery of consular services

and the organizational efficiency and productivity of its officers and staff.

Macaraig reported to Cuisia and other consuls in the United States the situation and conditions in the CNMI between the release of the Commonwealth-only transitional worker rule and the closing date to comply with the rule.

He said that during the two-month 20-day period, consular services surged, with visa issuance for non-Filipinos the only consular service that remained average during the period.

"To explain the increase, I informed the Ambassador that most of these consular activities was to comply with the requirement of the final rule while a few were for eventual voluntary repatriation to the Philippines," Macaraig told *Saipan Tribune*.

During the meeting, Macaraig also reported about current activities that will have to be implemented next year, such as the *Gabay sa Negosyo* and other reintegration programs and ac-

tivities, registration for overseas voters for Filipinos on Tinian and Rota and other consular activities, and cultural celebrations like Independence Day.

"Of course, assistance to nationals will be high on the priority list," added Macaraig.

The meeting also became an opportunity to share effective techniques in consular services and requirements.

"We were able to give out some of our better practices and also obtained new insights on how the other consulates perform better in some services," he said.

A considerable amount of time, Macaraig said, was also used for economic diplomacy. Topics involving investments, trade, thrusts of the United States, how to help the Philippine economy, and other related matters were discussed.

"Cuisia was very emphatic about the need for better economic diplomacy activities in response to the instructions of President Aquino," noted Macaraig.

UFO saw progress, growth in 2011

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Besides being a challenging year, 2011 was also a year of growth and progress for the United Filipino Organization, according to president Bong Malasarte.

Malasarte said the year that's about to end saw the umbrella organization of some 30 Filipino groups in the CNMI the success of their various projects despite the economic recession on the islands.

"It was a difficult year, yes. But I would like to think of 2011 on a different light. This year, our projects were accomplished with the help of our sponsors and donors who have generously shared with us even with this kind of economy," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Malasarte noted that the uncertainties caused by the immigration issue in the Commonwealth compounded the economic situation on the islands.

"But we're moving forward

now because we already know the rules," he added.

The president gave special recognition to the fact that UFO came together as an organization to achieve its goals and objectives.

"The teamwork of UFO officers and members was phenomenal. It certainly assisted us throughout the course of 2011. Without our joint efforts, we could never accomplish what we have. I hope we continue to exhibit that same solidarity in 2012," he added.

Philippines, DFA hurdled tests of 2011—Del Rosario

By JERRY E. ESPLANADA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

The Philippines' adept response to the succeeding waves of high-impact global events this year—from the Arab Spring to the worldwide economic and debt crises—has "underscored our resilience as a nation," according to Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario.

In a statement, Del Rosario on Thursday noted that "the passing year rained extraordinary challenges."

But, he said, "we remained steadfast, hopeful and optimistic with the victories we gained."

"In the spirit of genuine public service, the men and women of the Department of Foreign Affairs marched through the storms with dedication, commitment and fortitude... Looking back, we see how much we have achieved by being true to our duties and responsibilities," he stressed.

Del Rosario expressed confidence that in 2012, the DFA would "do more, serve better and reach beyond our grasp."

On Thursday, the agency released a 13-page report on its top 14 accomplishments this year.

The achievements, Del Rosario said, were "in accordance with the three pillars of Philippine foreign policy," which are the preservation and enhancement of national security; promotion and attainment of economic security, and protection of the rights and welfare of overseas Filipino workers.

The foreign office's major accomplishments included the following:

1 Secured a 17-percent increase (about \$21.4 million) in the Obama administration's proposed appropriation for the Philippines from \$123.27 million this year to \$144.66 million next year;

2 Obtained an additional \$53 million in coastal watch radar systems from Washington;

3 Received more than \$1.8 million in military and law enforcement assistance from China;

4 Entered into a framework arrangement with South Korea for the provision of \$500 million in soft loans to finance the upgrading of the Coast Guard information and communication systems;

5 Proposed the concept of a Zone of Peace, Freedom, Friendship and Cooperation in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea) among the six Spratlys claimant countries—the Philippines, China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Malaysia and Brunei;

6 Entered into new defense cooperation agreements with Israel, Italy, Spain and Vietnam;

7 Campaigned for the election of Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago to the International Criminal Court.

Ex-Philippine president faces second criminal case

By HRVOJE HRANJSKI
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Prosecutors on Thursday filed a second criminal case against former Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, this time over an overpriced deal with a Chinese telecommunications giant that allegedly involved huge kickbacks.

Arroyo—who is under arrest on separate electoral fraud charges—has previously denied wrongdoing in the latest case. But under public pressure in 2008, she canceled a flagship \$330 million Philippine government deal with China's ZTE Corp. to set up a nationwide broadband network.

The cases are part of efforts of Arroyo's successor, President Benigno Aquino III, to root out high-level corruption that is endemic in the Philippines. Aquino blames Arroyo, who stepped down last year, of presiding over a decade of corrupt practices that eroded public trust in government and held back foreign investors.

She has accused him of using "black propaganda" to damage her image.

Arroyo's husband and a former elections chief have denied accusations in a Senate hearing of receiving millions of dollars in kickbacks for Arroyo's approval of the broadband deal. But the issue was never properly investigated because Arroyo had barred top officials from disclosing details.

Anti-graft prosecutors filed a case against Arroyo, husband Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, former Elections Commissioner Benjamin Abalos and ex-Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza over the botched contract.

Court spokesman Renato Bocar said Arroyo was charged "for being interested for personal gain in the approval of the ... project despite knowledge of the irregularities and anomalies that attended its approval."

The complaint is based on Senate testimonies in 2008 of ZTE consultant Dante Madriaga, who said that the deal was originally priced at \$130 million,



In this Dec. 9, 2011 file photo, former Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo poses in her hospital suite at St. Luke's Medical Center in Taguig near Manila, Philippines.

but that the cost ballooned to accommodate the kickbacks.

Former Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri had testified that Abalos offered him a bribe to approve the contract, and another witness, Jose de Venecia III, said the ex-president's husband was promised a \$70 million commission.

After being blocked at the Manila airport from seeking medical treatment abroad, Arroyo, 64, was arrested last month for allegedly ordering the rigging of 2007 congressional elections.

She was moved to a military-run veterans' hospital, where she remains in detention. Abalos was arrested Dec. 13.

Aquino said in an interview with ABS-CBN television aired this week that he would consider pardoning Arroyo if she were convicted only if she showed remorse.

Aquino was elected in a landslide on a promise to stamp out corruption. Sixteen months later, he still enjoys high ratings, with a recent poll finding that seven out of 10 Filipinos approve of his policies.

Suspect in Italian's killing in Philippines nabbed



National Bureau of Investigation agents take the handcuffs off suspected gunman Jimmy Ato, center, as he prepares to have his finger prints taken at Cagayan De Oro city, southern Philippines on Friday Dec. 30, 2011. Ato is the main suspect in the killing of Italian missionary priest Rev. Fausto Tentorio who had campaigned for indigenous people's rights in the restive southern Philippines, Philippine justice secretary Leila De Lima said.

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The main suspect in the killing of an Italian missionary priest who had campaigned for indigenous people's rights was arrested Thursday in the restive southern Philippines, the Philippine justice secretary said.

The alleged gunman, Jimmy Ato, was captured in the same Arakan township in Cotabato province where the Rev. Fausto Tentorio had served as a parish priest when he was killed outside his church Oct. 17, Justice Secretary Leila de Lima said.

The suspect's brother and alleged accomplice fired upon arresting officers and was able to escape, de Lima said, adding that no one was wounded. Ato's brother is suspected of driving the motorcycle they used to escape after Ato allegedly shot Tentorio.

Police said the 59-year-old Tentorio was shot 10 times from about a yard (meter) away inside his church compound as he prepared to leave for a meeting. He was a beloved, longtime parish priest who was fluent in the local dialect and had close ties with the townspeople, said Arakan police chief Benjamin Rioflorida.

A native of Santa Maria Hoe town in Italy's Lecco province, Tentorio had lived in the Philippines for the past 32 years and was an outspoken advocate for the rights of marginalized indigenous people. The tribes are often victimized by armed gangs sometimes working for the military or mining, logging and agricultural companies that are blamed for exploiting their lands.

He was the third missionary from the Rome-based Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions to be killed on southern Mindanao Island, a resource-rich but impoverished region wracked by decades of political and ethnic unrest.

Arroyo couple can post bail

»Evidence not enough to charge them with plunder

By LEILA B. SALAVERRIA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

The **graft charges** filed on Wednesday against former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in the Sandiganbayan are bailable, but this does not guarantee her freedom because she was earlier charged with electoral sabotage, a non-bailable offense, a spokesperson of the antigraft court said Thursday.

Arroyo's latest criminal charges in the Sandiganbayan stemmed from the Office of the Ombudsman's finding that she had fast-tracked and approved the signing of the controversial \$329-million National Broadband Network (NBN) deal with China's ZTE Corp. in 2007 despite her knowledge of its irregularities.

Arroyo was also indicted for playing golf and having lunch with officials of ZTE when its proposal to undertake the NBN deal was still being evaluated by the Philippine government.

The Office of the Ombudsman said her acceptance of the round of golf and lunch with ZTE officials in China violated the provision of the law which states that public officials should not solicit or accept any gift in the course of their official duties in connection with any transaction that may be affected by the functions of their office.

Not enough for plunder

But the Ombudsman found insufficient evidence to charge her and her coaccused with plunder, which was what the original complaint had sought.

The golf game and lunch with ZTE officials led as well to the former President's husband, Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, being included in one graft charge with his spouse, as this showed his "unusual interest" in the deal, the Office of the Ombudsman said.

It also found the ZTE contract, which sought to connect government offices nationwide through a national broadband system, to be disadvantageous to the country.

It said this was akin to handing an entity associated with a foreign government access to sensitive knowledge on the Philippine communications network.

Abalos, Mendoza

Also charged were former Elections Chairman Benjamin Abalos and former Transportation and Communication Secretary Leandro Mendoza.

The Ombudsman also recommended that further fact-finding investigation be conducted against Emmanuel Ang, then Philippine commercial attaché to China, for infidelity in the custody of documents for the loss of the original copy of the supply contract.

The criminal charges were based on the complaint filed by Bayan Muna Representative Teodoro Casiño, and activists Liza Maza and Carol Araullo.

They had wanted the Arroyos indicted for the nonbailable charge of plunder, but the Office of the Ombudsman found no basis to support this charge, saying the witnesses' testimonies in Senate inquiries had failed to prove that money had changed hands.

The Office of the Ombudsman said Arroyo appeared to have used her position to hasten the deal's approval, but there was no evidence to link her to the receipt of the alleged payment of kickbacks.

Bail

Arroyo was charged with two counts of graft and one count of violation of the code of conduct and ethical standards for public officials. Her bail was set at P30,000 for each graft charge and P10,000 for the violation of the code of conduct, or P70,000 in total, according to the charge sheets.

The bail for Mike Arroyo, Abalos and Mendoza, who were each charged with one count of graft, was P30,000 each.

The charges are scheduled to be raffled in the Sandiganbayan on January 2.

Once the charges are raffled to a division, the accused could post bail. The antigraft court has 10 days to review the charges and issue an arrest warrant if it finds probable cause, according to Sandiganbayan spokesperson Renato Bocar.

Bocar told reporters that should Arroyo post bail, this does not mean she would be freed, since she has another pending nonbailable criminal case in a Pasay City Regional Trial Court.

He said that when an accused posts bail in the Sandiganbayan, the subsequent order of release would state that the accused could be freed, "unless he or she is being detained under another warrant or order."

Detained

Arroyo is currently detained at Veterans Memorial Medical Center due to her electoral sabotage case.

In its resolution ordering the filing of charges, the Ombudsman panel said Arroyo had approved Mendoza's signing of the NBN contract despite knowing the anomalies surrounding it.

"GMA (Arroyo), despite knowledge of the irregularities, authorized Mr. Mendoza to sign the contract in her behalf. By affixing his signature to the contract, Mr. Mendoza was put on notice of those irregularities that led to its signing," it said.

The panel also said that even if the contract had been canceled, those who signed it still have criminal liability.

Also supporting the graft charges were the testimonies in the Senate that ZTE's proposal was only \$130 million but was later adjusted supposedly to jack up commissions; Arroyo's attendance during the signing of the NBN contract in China despite the authority she gave to Mendoza to sign it in her behalf; and the fact that the contract was entered into without public bidding.

Indecent haste

The contract was also entered into in "indecent haste," the panel added. It said the contract was signed without waiting for the Department of Justice opinion on whether the NBN deal was an executive agreement and thus exempt from public bidding.

"Parenthetically, under the contract, the Philippine party would be handing over to a Chinese parastatal [owned or controlled wholly or partly by the government] the construction of a set of vital technological facilities that would thereby enable the other party associated with a foreign sovereign power to gain sensitive knowledge on, and a foothold over, the communications network of the Philippine government," it further said.

Samu't Sari



CLARISSA V. DAVID
Staff and management of the Saipan Soccer School join students at the Joaquina M. Rabauliman Headstart Center in posing for a group photo during their Christmas program last Dec. 22.

CLARISSA V. DAVID
Wearing Santa hats, students at the Joaquina M. Rabauliman Headstart Center say thank you to Saipan Soccer School after receiving gifts for Christmas on Dec. 22.



CLARISSA V. DAVID
Bystanders check out one of the stalls at the Paskong Pinoy 2011 celebration on Dec. 17.

CLARISSA V. DAVID
Rotarians Ben Babauta and Jeff Boyer are joined by their Rotary Anns for a group photo during the Saipan Rotary Club Christmas Party at the Hyatt Regency poolside last Dec. 20.



CLARISSA V. DAVID
Rotarians flaunt their makeshift reindeer antlers during one of the games at the Saipan Rotary Club Christmas party on Dec. 20.



CLARISSA V. DAVID
Ulysses Sabuco, left, and Annamae Adaza, second left, host the Paskong Pinoy 2011 at the Paseo de Marianas on Dec. 17.



CLARISSA V. DAVID
United Filipino Organization president Bong Malasarte delivers his opening remarks for Paskong Pinoy 2011.



CLARISSA V. DAVID
Spectators enjoy the different song and dance numbers during the Paskong Pinoy celebration.



CLARISSA V. DAVID
Members of the Saipan Building and Fixing Users Group pose by their winning Christmas lantern.



CLARISSA V. DAVID
Students of Li'l Hands School of Music garbed in colorful costumes perform for the Paskong Pinoy audience.



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy, happy birthday to Lucilie B. Tomokane! May you enjoy your special day and have a blessed New Year ahead! Greetings from your husband and friends.

Business

Eurozone faces tough hurdles early in 2012

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)—After a turbulent 2011, the 17 countries that use the euro will be quickly confronted in the new year with major hurdles to solving their government debt crisis, just as the eurozone economy is expected to sink back into recession.

With government finances under pressure as growth wanes, the eurozone will find it even more difficult to shore up shaky banks and reduce the high borrowing costs that threaten Italy and Spain with financial ruin.

As early as the second full week of January, bond auctions in which Italy and Spain need to borrow big chunks of cash will start showing whether the eurozone is finally getting a grip

on the 2-year-old crisis that has seen Greece, Ireland and Portugal bailed out.

If the auctions go well and borrowing costs ease, the crisis will ease, lending support for the EU strategy of getting governments to embark on often-savage austerity measures to reduce deficits, along with massive support for the banking system from the European Central Bank.

High rates, on the other hand, would feed fears of a government debt default that could cripple banks, sink the economy and, in the extreme case, destroy the 17-member currency union. Key events early in the New Year:

■ Italy and Spain will seek to

borrow heavily in the first quarter at affordable interest costs, starting the second week in January.

■ The slowing eurozone economy may slip into or already be in recession, lowering tax revenue and increasing government budget deficits.

■ Bailed-out Greece must agree with creditors on a debt writedown that will cut the value of their holdings by 50 percent in an effort to start putting the bankrupt country back on its feet.

The task is for the major players—eurozone governments, the European Union's executive Commission and the European Central Bank—to convince financial markets

that troubled governments can pay their heavy debts and therefore deserve to borrow at affordable interest costs.

Default fears have driven up bond market interest rates and made it more and more expensive for indebted governments to borrow to pay off maturing bonds. That vicious cycle forced Greece, Ireland and Portugal to seek bailout loans

from the other eurozone governments and the International Monetary Fund.

A key stress point will be whether Italy can continue to raise money in the markets at affordable rates. In the first quarter, it has to step up its borrowing to pay off euro72 billion (\$94 billion) in bond redemptions and interest payments. Spain, which is expected to sell

up to euro25 billion (\$33 billion) in new debt, starts a heavy period of auctions on Jan. 12, and Italy begins on Jan. 13.

Overall, Italy has more than euro300 billion (\$392 billion) in debt maturing in 2012.

"If Italy manages to auction this debt successfully, then the debt crisis will take a step back from the cliff edge," said analyst Jane Foley at Rabobank.

Stanford archives offer window into Apple origins

PALO ALTO, Calif. (AP)—In the interview, Steve Wozniak and the late Steve Jobs recall a seminal moment in Silicon Valley history—how they named their upstart computer company some 35 years ago.

"I remember driving down Highway 85," Wozniak says. "We're on the freeway, and Steve mentions, 'I've got a name: Apple Computer.' We kept thinking of other alternatives to that name, and we couldn't think of anything better."

Adds Jobs: "And also remember that I worked at Atari, and it got us ahead of Atari in the phonebook."

The interview, recorded for an in-house video for company employees in the mid-1980s, was among a storehouse of materials Apple had been collecting for a company museum. But in 1997, soon after Jobs returned to the company, Apple officials

contacted Stanford University and offered to donate the collection to the school's Silicon Valley Archives.

Within a few days, Stanford curators were at Apple headquarters in nearby Cupertino, packing two moving trucks full of documents, books, software, videotapes and marketing materials that now make up the core of Stanford's Apple Collection.

The collection, the largest assembly of Apple historical materials, can help historians, entrepreneurs and policymakers understand how a startup launched in a Silicon Valley garage became a global technology giant.

"Through this one collection you can trace out the evolution of the personal computer," said Stanford historian Leslie Berlin. "These sorts of documents are as close as you get to the unmediated story of what really happened."

The collection is stored in hundreds of boxes taking up more than 600 feet of shelf space at the Stanford's off-campus storage facility. The Associated Press visited the climate-controlled warehouse on the outskirts of the San Francisco Bay area, but agreed not to disclose its location.

Interest in Apple and its founder has grown dramatically since Jobs died in October at age 56, just weeks after he stepped down as CEO and handed the reins to Tim Cook. Jobs' death sparked an international outpouring and marked the end of an era for Apple and Silicon Valley.

"Apple as a company is in a very, very select group," said Stanford curator Henry Lowood. "It survived through multiple generations of technology. To the credit of Steve Jobs, it meant reinventing the company at several points."



A woman eats food at the Athens Municipality's soup kitchen and homeless shelter, that caters more than 1,500 meals a day to the poor, in Athens, Thursday, Dec. 22, 2011.

Toilet paper goes chic with designer covers

ATLANTA (AP)—Are you ready to "Respect the Roll?"

Kimberly-Clark is looking to shake up the toilet-paper accessory category with toilet roll covers from designer Jonathan Adler.

To boost awareness about a new formulation of its Cottonelle toilet paper that it says is 30 percent stronger, Kimberly-Clark Inc. decided to forgo traditional advertising. Instead, it's offering limited-edition boxes to hide your backup rolls. Who knew you needed such a thing?

It's the latest effort by consumer product makers to spice up stagnant categories with eye-catching design. In 2010, Kotex introduced the "U by Kotex" line of pads and tampons with neon packaging and pad carriers designed by stylist Patricia Fields, for example.

Allen Adamson, managing director of global branding firm Landor in New York, said Target Corp. has successfully brought design to a lot of consumer product categories with such lines as the housewares rethought by renowned industrial



This product image provided by Kimberly Clark Corp., shows Cottonelle toilet paper with roll covers.

designer Michael Graves.

But it's new for toilet paper. "It's just surprising when design finally meets toilet paper—that's sort of the final frontier," Adamson said.

Even though it's a \$10 billion industry, according to Nielsen, most people don't pay attention to which toilet paper roll they buy—or they stay loyal to one brand for decades.

"Consumers shop on autopilot and shop quite a bit on deal," in the toilet-paper aisle, admitted Kurt Simon, brand director for Cottonelle. "They tune out when

they go into the aisle. And, largely speaking, they tune out (toilet paper) advertising as well."

Adler created covers in three bright, geometric patterns. Known for bold colors and pop graphics, he has designed everything from home furnishings to hotels and currently operates 16 of his own stores.

The roll covers will be available in January at respecttheroll.com for a shipping charge of \$1.99 plus an offer code from a package of Cottonelle toilet paper. Or you can order one now for \$3.99, including shipping.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil price climbs to near \$100 per barrel

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil prices climbed near \$100 per barrel Thursday on stronger jobs and housing data in the U.S. Benchmark U.S. crude added 29 cents to end the day at \$99.65 per barrel in New York. Oil rose late in the day after the government reported that claims for jobless benefits fell to a four-week average of 375,000. That's the lowest level in three and a half years. The National Association of Realtors also reported that contracts to buy homes

rose last month to the highest level in a year and a half. Both reports pointed to stronger economic growth as 2011 comes to a close, and that could lead to rising energy demand in 2012.

Federal judge blocks Calif. low-carbon fuels rule

FRESNO, Calif. (AP)—A federal judge blocked California from enforcing its first-in-the-nation mandate for cleaner, low-carbon fuels on Thursday, saying the rules favor biofuels produced in the state. The law-

suit challenging the state regulations, which were adopted as part of California's landmark 2006 global warming law, was filed in federal court last year by a coalition that includes the National Petrochemical & Refiners Association and the Consumer Energy Alliance. Fresno-based U.S. District Court Judge Lawrence O'Neill's written ruling Thursday said the low-carbon fuel rules violated the U.S. Constitution's commerce clause by discriminating against crude oil and biofuels producers located outside California.



LEADING INDICATORS

| DOW | S&P | NASDAQ |
|-----------|----------|----------|
| 12,287.04 | 1,263.02 | 2,613.74 |
| +135.63 | +13.38 | +23.76 |
| +1.12% | +1.07% | +0.92% |

EXCHANGE RATES

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|--------|--------------------|---------|------------------|---------|
| in U.S. dollar terms | Australian Dollar | 0.9848 | Indian Rupee | 53.2275 | Singapore Dollar | 1.3022 |
| | British Pound | 0.6487 | Indonesian Rupiah | 9202.5 | South Korean Won | 1153.18 |
| | Canadian Dollar | 1.0211 | Japanese Yen | 77.5465 | Swiss Franc | 0.7949 |
| | Chinese Yuan | 6.3112 | Malaysian Ringgit | 3.1775 | Taiwan Dollar | 30.3083 |
| | Euro | 0.7733 | New Zealand Dollar | 1.2945 | Thailand Baht | 31.66 |
| | | | | | | |

Nation

Biologists: Lone gray wolf crosses into California

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A lone gray wolf has wandered across the Oregon border into California in what wildlife officials hailed Thursday as the historic return of a species not seen in the state in more than 80 years.

Biologists tracked the wolf's position to a few miles south of the state line in Siskiyou County, the California Department of Fish and Game said.

A global positioning system collar was placed on the wolf in February. Since then, the 2 1/2-year-old male has wandered more than 300 miles from its original location. Its movement into California was widely anticipated as it approached the border just before Christmas.

"Whether one is for it or against it, the entry of this lone wolf into California is an historic event," said Department of Fish and Game Director Charlton H. Bonham, acknowledging the debate over the spread of wolves in the western U.S.

The GPS data put the wolf in California as of Wednesday. Officials said they would only provide general information about its location, since gray wolves in California are designated a federally endangered species.

The last confirmed wild gray wolf in California was killed in 1924 by a trapper

protecting livestock. Conflict between wolves and ranchers across the West remains a key point of tension as reintroduction efforts in recent decades have led to the species' spread.

Biologists said they don't know if the wolf will remain in California or wander back to Oregon or on to Nevada. They said the wide wandering from its pack in Oregon was typical behavior for a young male wolf.

The fish and game department expects other wolves to arrive in California at some point as part of a slow wolf migration linked to the 1995 introduction

of a Canadian gray wolf pack to Idaho and areas around Yellowstone National Park. Wolves first re-entered Oregon in 1999.

Multiple wolves in California could lead to new packs becoming established, or they could simply wander on.

"If the gray wolf does establish a population in California, there will be much more work to do here," Bonham said.

While the wolves in California will be under federal protection, state regulators said they have no wolf management plan and no intention to actively reintroduce the animals to the state.



Family: NY woman's generosity led to burning death

NEW YORK (AP)—The weeping, cash-strapped relatives of a woman torched in the elevator of her apartment building said Thursday that she was kindhearted and helped a homeless man and paid with her life.

Deloris Gillespie's children told reporters that the 71-year-old had hired Jerome Isaac to do some chores in her Brooklyn apartment.

And on Dec. 17, "he ended up killing her," said Gillespie's son, Everett Hayes, holding back tears.

"For someone to set someone on fire—that's ridiculous!" he said. "I mean, what is this country coming to?"

Hayes joined Gillespie's daughter, cousin and brother at a news conference in the offices of New York City Councilwoman Letitia James, D-Brooklyn, who has been assisting them in the days after Gillespie's death.

They sat side by side, with a smiling picture of Gillespie taped on the wall behind them.

A memorial service is scheduled for Friday at the First A.M.E. Zion Church in Brooklyn's Bedford-Stuyves-

ant neighborhood.

The family says it doesn't have enough money to pay for the service or other costs related to the death.

The handyman, Jerome Isaac, is charged with first-degree murder and arson in Gillespie's death. Police say he cornered her in the elevator as it opened on the fifth floor of her apartment building in the Prospect Heights neighborhood, then sprayed her with gasoline and set her ablaze as she screamed. Surveillance cameras captured Isaac wearing an exterminator's mask and gloves as he ignited her with a barbecue lighter.

He surrendered to police a day later, reeking of gasoline.

Isaac, 47, told police Gillespie owed him money. She had told neighbors the handyman was stealing from her.

A defense attorney said last week he had been in touch with his client and would evaluate all possible defenses.

Daughter Sheila Gillespie Hillsman said she helped the Manhattan medical examiner's office identify her mother's remains so a positive identification could be made

and a death certificate issued.

Hillsman traveled from her home in Gary, Ind., after getting the news and said the New York community responded with open arms to the family's grief.

"It's just been really hard, but I've really received a lot of love from New York, and I really appreciate it," she said. "I got a lot of hugs on the street."

James said a Manhattan hedge fund manager who did not know Gillespie had come forward offering to donate \$10,000 to pay for the memorial service and other expenses. But there was no such deposit in the fund that the politician set up to help the family; only \$800 is now available, donated by friends and neighbors.

James said she spoke again with the money manager Thursday, was assured he would cover the costs and considered the issue resolved.

Hayes, of Stuart, Fla., said he was "tapped out."

"We're at the bottom now," he said.

His mother, at the time of her death, was still working as a clerk at a post office in Brooklyn's East New York neighborhood.

Republicans battle over undecided voters in Iowa

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—With time running short, Republican presidential candidates Rick Santorum, Rick Perry and Newt Gingrich battled Thursday to win over a pivotal crop of undecided conservative voters. Of all the candidates, only Mitt Romney seemed to largely escape attack as he worked to win a state that long seemed out of reach until this week.

"Don't settle for what's not good enough to save the country," the newly ascendant Santorum implored Iowans at city hall in Coralville, urging voters to put conservative principles above everything else and suggesting that his rivals, and specifically Ron Paul, lacked them.

For the first time, though, the former Pennsylvania senator became a target.

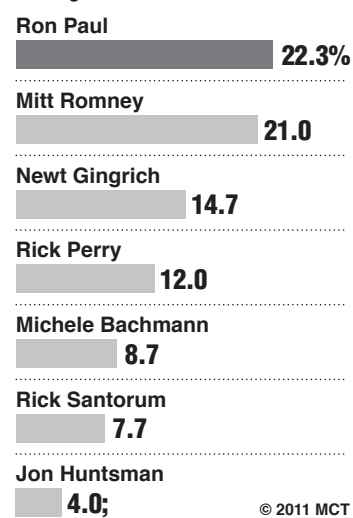
"When he talks about fiscal conservatism, every now and then it leaves me scratching my head because he was a prolific earmarker," Perry, the Texas governor, said of Santorum as the day began, referring to special spending projects members of Congress seek. "He loaded up his bill with Pennsylvania pork."

Perry also slapped at Santorum in a radio ad and in a new TV commercial that lumps him in with Minnesota Rep. Michele Bachmann, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich and Paul and says: "The fox guarding the henhouse is like asking a congressman to fix Washington: bad idea."

The maneuvering underscored the fluid—if not convoluted—state of the GOP presidential race as Tuesday's caucuses loom while cultural conservatives and evangelical Republicans, who make up the base of the electorate here, continue to be divided. That lack of unity paves the way for some-

Paul's charge

Iowa Republicans' preference for presidential nomination; Real Clear Politics Iowa polling average for Dec. 16-19



one who is seen as less consistently conservative.

Five days out, public and private polling show Romney and Paul in strong contention to win the caucuses, with coalitions of support cobbled together from across the Republican political spectrum and their get-out-the-vote operations—beefed up from their failed 2008 bids—at the ready. They're the only two with the money and the organizations necessary to ensure big turnouts on Tuesday.

Three others—Santorum, Perry and Gingrich—will have to rely largely on momentum to carry supporters to precinct caucuses. Each was working to convince fickle conservatives that he alone would satisfy those who yearn for a nominee who would adhere strictly to GOP orthodoxy.

Bachmann, meanwhile, worked to convince backers

that her cash-strapped campaign was not in disarray after a top supporter in Iowa abandoned her to back Paul.

After state Sen. Kent Sorenson bolted as her Iowa campaign chairman, Bachmann continued to bleed staff, losing her Iowa political director, Wes Enos, on Thursday. Some evangelical pastors have said they've urged her to quit the race.

Bachmann condemned Sorenson for quitting, and defiantly vowed to continue in the race.

"Iowans aren't told who to vote for. Iowans are independent and they're going to make their decisions," Bachmann said in Des Moines, on the last day of a 10-day tour of Iowa's 99 counties.

Ads, mostly negative, flooded television and radio. They filled mailboxes, too.

No less than five new TV ads were rolled out Thursday, with Romney, for one, releasing a 60-second, optimistic commercial promoting his vision for America and illustrating his confidence with his standing in the primary race. He was staying far from the fray and looking toward the general election.

"In the campaign to come, the American ideals of economic freedom and opportunity need a clear and unapologetic defense. And I intend to make it because I have lived it," Romney says in the commercial that includes patriotic images and scenes from his June campaign announcement in New Hampshire.

He's in the midst of a four-day trek that he hopes will seal victory here and give him momentum heading into the Jan. 10 New Hampshire primary, the closest thing to a must-win state for the former Massachusetts governor.

ACROSS THE NATION

US wants 2012 talks for Taliban political office

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. and Afghan officials say the Obama administration hopes to restore momentum this spring to U.S. talks with the Taliban insurgency that had reached a critical point before falling apart this month. The officials told The Associated Press that talks and two key trust-building initiatives with the Taliban are on hold because of objections from Afghan President Hamid Karzai (HAH'-mihd KAR'-zeyeh). Those measures were a Taliban headquarters office and the release from the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, of approximately five Afghan prisoners considered affiliated with the Taliban.

NYC mayor says work on 9/11 museum has stalled

NEW YORK (AP)—Work on a planned museum at the World Trade Center has ground to a halt because of a financial dispute, and there is now no possibility it will open on time next year, New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg said Thursday. The underground museum commemorating victims of the 9/11 attacks was scheduled to open in September on the 11th anniversary of the disaster, a year after the opening of a memorial at the site that has already drawn 1 million visitors. But in recent months, the National September 11 Memorial & Museum foundation has been fighting with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey over who is

responsible for paying millions of dollars in infrastructure costs related to the project.

Church Nativity scene with gay figures vandalized

CLAREMONT, Calif. (AP)—Vandalism of a church's Nativity display that includes depictions of gay and lesbian couples was being investigated as a hate crime, police said. The damage at Claremont United Methodist Church occurred late Saturday or Sunday morning. The display's three panels feature silhouettes of three hand-holding couples—two men, two women and a heterosexual pair. The vandal knocked over the depictions of the gay and lesbian couples but left the straight couple alone.

Asia

NKorea vows no change despite new leadership

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—North Korea warned rival South Korea and the rest of the world Friday not to expect any change after Kim Jong Il's death, sending a tough message as Kim's young son strengthened his position as supreme leader.

North Korea's powerful National Defense Commission said that the country would never deal with South Korean President Lee Myung-bak, a conservative who stopped a no-strings-attached aid policy toward the North in 2008, and that it would unite around new leader Kim Jong Un.

The stern message came a day after North Korea ended official mourning for Kim Jong Il and declared Kim Jong Un supreme leader of the ruling party and military at a massive public memorial for the elder Kim. The top levels of government have unified around Kim Jong Un, who is in late 20s, in the wake of his father's death Dec. 17.

"We declare solemnly and confidently that the foolish politicians around the world, including the puppet group in South Korea, should not expect any change from us," the National Defense Commission said in a statement. "We will never deal with the traitor group of Lee Myung-bak."

The commission said the "evil misdeeds" of the Lee administration reached a peak when it



In this image made from KRT video, North Korea's next leader Kim Jong Un is seen during a memorial service for late North Korean leader Kim Jong Il, in Pyongyang, North Korea, Thursday, Dec. 29, 2011.

prevented South Koreans from visiting North Korea to pay respects to Kim Jong Il, except for two delegations led by a former first lady and a business leader, both of whose husbands had ties to North Korea.

The North's statement is a warning for Seoul not to take the new leadership lightly, said Koh Yu-hwan, a North Korea expert at Seoul's Dongguk University.

"It is also raising the stakes in case the South wants better rela-

tions so Pyongyang can extract greater concessions" during any later talks, Koh said. He added that it's "too early to say the North is dashing hopes for reforms."

Indeed, the North, while blasting the South's leader, offered a bit of hope for improved ties with the South, saying it "will continue to push hard toward the path of improved relations."

But it added that any better ties won't be "based on the deceitful ploys South Korea is employing by mixing 'toughness' and

'flexibility.'" Seoul has signaled a change in its approach toward Pyongyang in recent months, saying it will be more flexible in dealing with the North.

On Thursday, a somber Kim Jong Un, dubbed the Great Successor, stood with his head bowed at the Grand People's Study House, overlooking Kim Il Sung Square, named for his grandfather who founded modern North Korea. A sea of mourners gathered below.

"Respected Comrade Kim

Jong Un is our party, military and country's supreme leader who inherits great comrade Kim Jong Il's ideology, leadership, character, virtues, grit and courage," Kim Yong Nam, considered North Korea's ceremonial head of state, said in a speech.

Kim Jong Un was flanked by top party and military officials, including Kim Jong Il's younger sister, Kim Kyong Hui, and her husband, Jang Song Thaek, who are expected to serve as mentors of their young nephew.

"The father's plan is being implemented," Ralph Cossa, president of Pacific Forum CSIS, a Hawaii-based think tank, said of the transfer of power. "All of these guys have a vested interest in the system and a vested interest in demonstrating stability. The last thing they want to do is create havoc."

Still, given Kim Jong Un's inexperience and age, there are questions outside North Korea about whether he is equipped to lead a nation engaged in long-stalled negotiations over its nuclear program and grappling with decades of economic hardship and chronic food shortages.

But support among North Korea's power brokers was clear at the memorial service, which was attended by hundreds of thousands of people filling Kim Il Sung Square and other plazas in central Pyongyang.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Afghan soldier kills 2 French NATO troops

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—An Afghan army soldier shot and killed two French NATO troops Thursday, the French government said in what was the latest attack by members of Afghan security forces against their coalition partners. A statement from the office of French President Nicolas Sarkozy said a soldier in the Afghan National Army opened fire on the two, who were serving with the 2nd regiment of the Foreign Legion. This year has been the deadliest for French forces in Afghanistan since the international operation began there in 2001. Thursday's deaths bring to 26 the number of French troops killed this year, and 78 over the entire 10-year conflict.

China executes 12 people in single day

BEIJING (AP)—China has executed 12 people in a single day, including a man who bombed a local tax office. The official Xinhua News Agency says Liu Zhuiheng was convicted and sentenced to death for detonating explosives outside a tax office in Changsha city in Hunan province in July 2010. Four people were killed and 17 others wounded. Xinhua says the 52-year-old was venting anger over business losses. Xinhua says China's supreme court approved the death sentence of Liu and 11 others Thursday. All death sentences are sent to the supreme court for review and are usually carried out immediately if approved.

Camera traps capture 35 rhino in Indonesian park

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Dozens of camera traps installed in an Indonesian national park earlier this year captured images of 35 critically endangered Javan rhinos, including five calves, officials said Thursday. It's still possible that more of the animals live in the Ujung Kulon National Park—the animal's original habitat—said Bambang Novianto, director of biodiversity conservation at the forestry ministry. And the presence of young ones was welcomed as a rare piece of good news for the dying species.

India anti-corruption law doesn't clear Parliament

NEW DELHI (AP)—India's Parliament was unable to pass an anti-corruption bill that had been cleared by the powerful lower house earlier this week, leaving the controversial legislation in limbo.

The upper house debated the bill for more than 13 hours Thursday before adjourning at midnight without clearing it, indefinitely delaying potential passage of the government's "Lokpal," or watchdog, bill.

The lower house passed the anti-graft bill Tuesday after hours of fierce debate with several amendments suggested by opposition lawmakers. The bill becomes a law after both houses of Parlia-

ment pass it and send it to the president for her signature.

Parliament will reconvene early next year, though the date is unclear. It must reconvene by March to pass the budget for the next year.

Like the lower house, the upper house saw impassioned, often angry debate, with opposition parties calling the bill weak and ineffective. The government's own allies also had issues with a section of the proposed legislation that allowed the central government to create an anti-corruption ombudsman for the states, who they said should be free to enact their own

anti-corruption legislation.

Abhishek Manu Singhvi, a member of the ruling Congress party, accused the opposition of not making any constructive suggestions regarding the law, but "opposing for the sake of opposing."

The legislative showdown was the culmination of months of charged political debate and public protests that brought tens of thousands of middle-class Indians fed up with rampant corruption into the streets and put a scandal-plagued government on the defensive.

Hoping to defuse activist Anna Hazare's anti-corruption crusade,

the government initiated debate Tuesday on a bill to create an anti-graft watchdog. But that failed to satisfy Hazare, who began a three-day hunger strike in Mumbai on Tuesday demanding the proposed ombudsman be made more powerful.

Hazare ended his fast Wednesday, a day earlier than planned, citing poor health, but he has vowed to keep fighting to ensure that Parliament passes his stringent version of the legislation.

He said his supporters would travel across the country to campaign against the political parties that did not support his

proposals.

Hazare's main complaint with the anti-graft bill before Parliament is that the proposed corruption ombudsman would not have authority over the country's top investigative agency, the Central Bureau of Investigation. He says the ombudsman position would be too weak without that authority.

The legislation covers senior politicians and officials. The prime minister's office is under its purview, but with restrictions. But it gives the ombudsman no powers to conduct independent investigations into complaints of corruption.

BEIJING (AP)—China plans to launch space labs and manned ships and prepare to build space stations over the next five years, according to a plan released Thursday that shows the country's space program is gathering momentum.

China has already said its eventual goals are to have a space station and put an astronaut on the moon. It has made methodical progress with its ambitious lunar and human spaceflight programs, but its latest five-year plan beginning next year signals an acceleration.

By the end of 2016, China

China reveals its space plans up to 2016

will launch space laboratories, manned spaceship and ship freighters, and make technological preparations for the construction of space stations, according to the white paper setting out China's space progress and future missions.

China's space program has already made major breakthroughs in a relatively short time, although it lags far behind the United States and Russia in space technology and experience.

The country will continue exploring the moon using probes,

start gathering samples of the moon's surface, and "push forward its exploration of planets, asteroids and the sun."

It will use spacecraft to study the properties of black holes and begin monitoring space debris and small near-Earth celestial bodies and build a system to protect spacecraft from debris.

The paper also says China will improve its launch vehicles, improve its communications, broadcasting and meteorological satellites and develop a global satellite navigation sys-

tem, intended to rival the United States' dominant global positioning system (GPS) network.

China places great emphasis on the development of its space industry, which is seen as a symbol of national prestige.

Its space principles—including peaceful development, enhancing international cooperation and deep space exploration—are largely unchanged from its previous two documents detailing the progress of China's space missions, released in 2000 and 2006.

In 2003, China became the

third country behind the U.S. and Russia to launch a man into space and, five years later, completed a spacewalk. Toward the end of this year, it demonstrated automated docking between its Shenzhou 8 craft and the Tiangong 1 module, which will form part of a future space laboratory.

In 2007, it launched its first lunar probe, Chang'e-1, which orbited the moon, collecting data and a complete map of the moon.

Since 2006, China's Long March rockets have successfully launched 67 times, sending 79 spacecraft into orbit.

World

Foreign monitors energize Syrian protests

HOMS, Syria (AP)—The presence of Arab League monitors in Syria has re-energized the anti-government protest movement, with tens of thousands turning out over the past three days in cities and neigh-

borhoods where the observers are expected to visit. The huge rallies have been met by lethal gunfire from security forces apparently worried about multiple mass sit-ins modeled after Cairo's Tahrir Square.

On Thursday, security forces opened fire on tens of thousands protesting outside a mosque in a Damascus suburb and killed at least four. The crowd had gathered at the mosque near to a municipal building where cars

of the monitors had been spotted outside.

Troops fired live ammunition and tear gas to disperse large protests in several areas of the country, including central Damascus, killing at least

26 people nationwide, activists said. A key activist network, the Local Coordination Committees, said it has documented the names of 130 people, including six children, who died since the Arab League monitors arrived in Syria Monday night.

The ongoing violence, and new questions about the human rights record of the head of the Arab League monitors, are reinforcing the opposition's view that Syria's limited cooperation with the observers is nothing more than a farce for President Bashar Assad's regime to buy time and forestall more international condemnation and sanctions.

Still, the presence of outside monitors has invigorated frustrated protesters and motivated them to take to the streets again in large numbers after months of demonstrations met by bullets had dashed their hopes of peaceful change.

"We know the observers won't do anything to help us," said Yahya Abdel-Bari, an activist in the Damascus suburb of Douma. "But still, we want to show them our numbers, to let them know what is really happening here," he said.

The 60 Arab League monitors, who began work Tuesday, are the first Syria has allowed in during the nine-month anti-government uprising. They are supposed to ensure the regime complies with terms of the Arab League plan to end Assad's crackdown on dissent. The U.N. says more than

5,000 people have died in the uprising since March.

The plan, which Syria agreed to on Dec. 19, demands that the government remove its security forces and heavy weapons from cities, start talks with the opposition and allow human rights workers and journalists into the country. It also calls for the release of all political prisoners.

As word spread Thursday morning that the observers would be visiting Douma—which saw an intense government crackdown in the early days of the uprising—thousands of people began gathering outside the Grand Mosque, calling for Assad's downfall and for international protection for civilians.

Amateur videos posted on the Internet showed protesters in Douma facing off with Syrian soldiers, shouting "Freedom, Freedom!" Troops then opened fire to disperse the protesters, whose numbers had swelled to around 20,000.

"It came like rain, they used heavy machine guns, Kalashnikovs, everything," said Abdel-Bari.

Four people were killed and scores others wounded, said Abdel-Bari and various activist groups.

Rami Abdul-Rahman, head of the British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, said cars belonging to the Arab League monitors were seen in front of a municipal building close to the mosque around the same time.



In this image made from amateur video released by Shaam News Network and dated Wednesday Dec. 28, 2011, purports to show an Arab League monitor visiting the Baba Amr area of Homs in Syria.

Egypt forces storm offices of pro-democracy groups

CAIRO (AP)—Egyptian security forces stormed the offices of 10 human rights and pro-democracy groups on Thursday, including several based in the U.S., accused by the country's military rulers of destabilizing security by fomenting protests with the help of foreign funding.

The raids on 17 offices throughout Egypt are part of the ruling generals' attempt to blame "foreign hands" for the unrest that continues to roil Egypt since the 18-day revolt that ousted longtime leader Hosni Mubarak in February, but that activists say failed to

topple his regime.

Among the offices ransacked were the U.S.-headquartered National Democratic Institute, Freedom House and the International Republican Institute, which is observing Egypt's staggered parliamentary elections.

The Obama administration demanded Egyptian authorities immediately halt the raids on non-governmental organizations (NGOs), saying they are "inconsistent" with long-standing U.S.-Egypt cooperation.

The U.S. State Department called on the Egyptian govern-

ment "to immediately end the harassment of NGO staff, return all property and resolve this issue." Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said the U.S. ambassador to Egypt and the top U.S. diplomat for the Middle East have spoken to Egyptian officials about the situation and "made very clear that this issue needs immediate attention."

The raids on the NGOs were the first since Mubarak's ouster, though Egyptian officials have been levying accusations for months that the civil society groups are serving a

foreign agenda. Most recently this month, Justice Minister Adel Abdel-Hamid accused around 300 nonprofit groups of receiving unauthorized foreign funding and using the money for protests.

The Interior Ministry said the raids on 10 nonprofit organizations were part of the investigation into foreign funding of rights groups.

By far the largest recipient of foreign funding in Egypt is the military itself, which has for more than 30 years received about \$1.3 billion in annual U.S. security assistance.

Jamaica's opposition party wins big in elections

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)—Jamaica's opposition capitalized on discontent over the economy to return to power Thursday, as voters gave the country's first female leader a second chance to govern the island.

Supporters of former Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller, 66, shimmied and shouted in the capital, Kingston, as they heard that the center-right government of Prime Minister Andrew Holness had been defeated and their candidate had staged a dramatic political comeback in general elections.

Holness, Jamaica's youngest prime minister at 39, said the defeat will prompt a time of introspection and reflection

for leaders of his Jamaica Labor Party to examine what went wrong.

"I wish the new government well. We hope for the benefit of the country that they will do a good job," said Holness, who warned during the campaign that an opposition win would scare away foreign investment and dash hopes of economic progress.

While official results have not been released, elections director Orrette Fisher told The Associated Press that preliminary results showed Simpson Miller's slightly left-of-center People's National Party, or PNP, heading to victory.

"Based on the margins, it ap-

pears safe to say" that Simpson Miller's party won, Fisher said shortly after Jamaican newspapers and broadcasters called the election for her faction. He expected his office to release the official count and breakdown of parliamentary seats on Saturday.

News station TVJ said the PNP won 41 seats in parliament and Holness's Jamaica Labor Party 22.

Simpson Miller is beloved by her supporters for her folksy, plainspoken style and is referred to affectionately as "Sista P" and "Comrade Leader." She became Jamaica's first female prime minister in March 2006 after she was picked by party

delegates when P.J. Patterson retired as leader. But she was tossed out of office a year later in a narrow election defeat.

On Thursday, she thanked her supporters at party headquarters in Kingston, where more than a thousand elated partisans decked out in the party's color of orange swayed to reggae and soul tunes, waved flags and clapped hands.

"I am humbled as I stand before you and I wish to thank the Jamaican people for their love, for their support and for giving the People's National Party and the leader of the party her own mandate," she said, after receiving hugs from numerous candidates, some crying.

WORLD BRIEFS

Bahrain to try 5 police officers for torture

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP)—Five police officers will be put on trial in connection with the alleged torture of a detainee who later died in custody, the country's Information Affairs Authority said Friday. The country's top prosecutor, Nawaf Hamza, said in a statement that two unnamed officers have been charged with torture and mistreatment and three others with negligence for failure to report the incident. No details were provided about the five officers or the detainee. There were also no details about when and where the alleged torture took place.

At least 13 killed in Venezuela tanker truck fire

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—A tanker truck filled with gasoline has crashed and burst into flames in Venezuela, engulfing several cars and a bus and killing at least 13 people. Caracas fire chief William Martinez says the tanker truck flipped over and spilled gasoline, which ignited and burned seven vehicles. Rescue workers pulled victims' bodies from the blackened vehicles. Martinez said the tanker truck driver apparently lost control on the highway in Caracas but the cause of the accident was unclear.

Worst year in decades for endangered elephants

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—Large seizures of elephant tusks make this year the worst on record since ivory sales were banned in 1989, with recent estimates suggesting as many as 3,000 elephants were killed by poachers, experts said Thursday. "2011 has truly been a horrible year for elephants," said Tom Milliken, elephant and rhino expert for the wildlife trade monitoring network TRAFFIC. In one case earlier this month, Malaysian authorities seized hundreds of African elephant tusks worth \$1.3 million that were being shipped to Cambodia. The ivory was hidden in containers of Kenyan handicrafts. "In 23 years of compiling ivory seizure data ... this is the worst year ever for large ivory seizures," said Milliken.

Young Style

Santa Claus passes new poll with flying colors

By **CONNIE CASS**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—Why do kids believe a chubby guy in a flying sleigh can deliver joy across America? Because their parents do. A whopping 84 percent of grown-ups were once children who trusted in Santa's magic, and lots cling to it still.

Things are changing fast these days, with toddlers wishing for iPads, grade schoolers

emailing their Christmas lists and moms wrestling over bargain toys at midnight sales. Despite all the pressures on the rituals of the season, an AP-GfK poll confirms that families are sticking by old St. Nick.

"It's important for kids to have something to believe in," says great-grandmother Wanda Smith of Norman, Okla.

And so they do. Year after year, Santa Claus survives the scoffers and the Scrooges

Celebrate with a tuatara

By **KATHY ANTONIOTTI**
AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

Unlike the dinosaur, some reptiles have successfully evolved to present day by developing unique characteristics. To defend themselves from predators, chameleons can hide in plain sight by changing colors to blend in with the background. A horned lizard can squirt a stream of blood out of its eyes to defend itself. The Australian frilled lizard will bluff its way out of danger by swelling itself to look much larger than it actually is. Another reptile, the tuatara (pronounced too-ah-TAH-ruh), a reptile that looks like a lizard but isn't, will give up its tail to a predator and walk away from a fight. In time, its tail will grow back.

Tuatara are the last remaining relatives of ancient reptiles that lived on the Earth at the same time as dinosaurs. Today, they are found only on small islands off the coast of New Zealand. Like other reptiles, they are cold-blooded, lay eggs and have lungs. But tuatara have one of the slowest growth rates of any reptile, not reaching maturity until 15 or 20 years of age, with an average life span of 60 years.

The tuatara has existed for more than 200 million years because it is so unusual. While in its infancy, the tuatara has a third eye that eventually is covered over with scales. It can hold its breath up to an hour and, while normally nocturnal, the young tuatara hunt during the day to avoid being an older tuatara's dinner. Males have a crest of white spines running

down their backs for defense and to attract females.

I learned about tuatara while trying to find a craft for Reptile Day on Oct. 21. Although I was unable to find one, I made a model of a tuatara using a brown paper bag, papier-mache and a photo I found at World Book Online. Tuatara are scaly, have gray or green skin with white spines and can grow to two feet in length.

You will need:

- 1 lunch sack.
- Newspaper.
- Adhesive tape.
- White glue.
- Water.
- Paint.

Keeping the sack flat on the table, fold over one corner of the closed end. The point on the opposite side is the snout of the tuatara. Tape to hold.

Scrunch newspapers and stuff into the sack, taping to hold the shape as you form the body.

When you get to the open end of the sack, roll a few newspapers into a long cone and insert into the sack for a tail. Tape the bag closed around the tail.

Roll smaller pieces of paper into cones and tape to the sides of the body for legs.

Mix equal amounts of white glue and water in a small bowl.

Tear newspaper into small strips and soak in the glue mixture, then place on the form. Continue layering until the form is completely covered by paper.

Let your tuatara dry thoroughly before painting.

Use black markers to make eyes and a large mouth.



"Tuatara" looks like a lizard, but really isn't.

MCT



Brinley Brophy, 1, of Texarkana, Texas, reaches for her mom Deana during a portrait session with Santa Claus at Central Mall on Saturday, Dec. 24, 2011, in Texarkana, Texas.

and the 6-year-old playground skeptics. He endures belittling commercials that portray him shopping at Target or taking directions from an iPhone. He shrugs off scolds who say his bagful of toys overshadows the reason for the season.

Two-thirds of parents with kids under 18 say Santa's an important part of their celebrations this year. Moms, especially, have a soft spot for the man in red - 71 percent of them say he's important, and that's a big jump from 58 percent just five years ago.

His overall popularity is up slightly from an AP-AOL poll in 2006, before the recession hit. In these bleaker times of homes lost to foreclosure and parents sweating out their next paychecks, the poll shows Santa riding high with families both wealthy and poor.

Maybe that's because the big guy's always known how to stretch a dollar to make a kid smile.

Smith, whose childhood gifts were mostly handmade by her mother—things like cookies and knit scarves—remembers that every year Santa Claus managed to put one present under the tree for her to share with her two brothers (four more siblings came later).

"One year it was a bicycle,

one year we had a sled. One year we got a puppy—his name was Jack and he was a border collie," recalls Smith, now 70.

"We didn't have a lot," she said, "but we didn't know it. Our mother and daddy made it a wonderful time for us."

In multicultural America, Father Christmas isn't just for Christians any more. Three-fourths of non-Christian adults say they believed in Santa when they were children. And half feel he's important to their holiday celebrations now.

Developmental psychologist Cyndy Scheibe, who's been interviewing kids about Santa since 1986, said lots of Jewish children told her that Santa Claus was real, even though he didn't stop at their houses on Christmas Eve.

And many non-Christian parents embrace Santa because they see Christmas serving as a secular as well as religious holiday in the U.S., she said.

"Santa Claus is more than someone who just comes and gives you a present, it's this whole spirit of giving and magic that you get to be a part of and celebrate," said Scheibe, an associate professor at Ithaca College in New York.

That's what keeps Santa going over the decades and across cultures, she said.

"That, and there's almost nothing as much fun as getting to see your kid's face so completely excited."

Scheibe knows firsthand. She used to climb a ladder to the roof every Christmas, her daughter watching, to leave a key tied to a big red bow, because they didn't have a fireplace.

It's not all snowflakes and mistletoe in Santaland, however. Even among Christians, there's tension about how big a role, if any, a jolly old elf deserves in the celebration of Christ's birth.

Almost half of Americans polled said Santa detracts from the religious significance of Christmas more than he enhances it.

When she was growing up, Naomi Stenberg's fundamentalist Baptist parents didn't want her mixed up with Santa Claus or the Easter Bunny or Halloween trick-or-treating.

"I didn't understand why everybody else got to believe in Santa, and me and my brother didn't," says Stenberg, 32, now a stay-at-home mom in Baxter, Minn. "I felt left out."

Her own three children have gotten the full Kris Kringle experience, but sometimes she feels ill-equipped to handle the tough queries from her youngest, 6-year-old Rylen.

"She's been asking questions like how does Santa fit through the chimney," she said. "I don't know how to answer things like that."

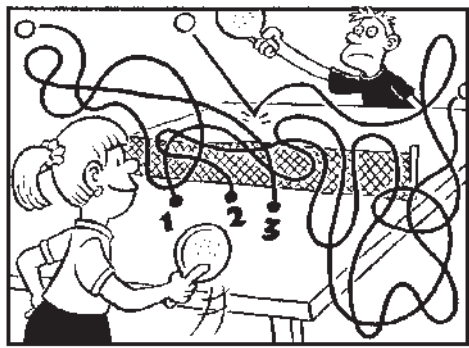
Matt Hoyt vividly remembers seeing Santa's black boots peeking out from behind his bedroom curtains when he was a boy. He froze. "I was just trying to pretend to be asleep," Hoyt said, "so I'd get my presents."

Only much later did he realize those were probably the black shoes of his dad, hanging his new "Star Wars" drapes. Now Hoyt, a 35-year-old computer engineer from Houston, is awaiting the birth of his first child in April, and wondering how long that child will believe.

In the poll, the median age when adults said they outgrew Santa was 8. Hoyt suspects his child's generation will turn away even earlier. After all, "They've got Google at their fingertips."

But Santa needn't worry. They'll come back someday ... when they're parents.

The Associated Press-GfK Poll was conducted Dec. 8-12 by GfK Roper Public Affairs and Corporate Communications. It involved landline and cellphone interviews with 1,000 adults nationwide and has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.



CAN YOU SPOT Ping Pong Patty's winning shot?

Answer: No, I will put Freddy away.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



**MIME
MILE
TILE
TALE
TALK**

DON'T GET BOXED IN!
You have five minutes to get out of this challenge. In this type of problem you are given a word that must be changed into another word in a series of moves. During each move, you must change one letter in the previous word, so as to form a new word. In our example, we changed MIME to TALK in four moves. See if you can change the following words in four moves each.

1. LESS to MORE
2. OUST to REND
3. PEST to GONE
4. RUBE to GENT
5. SALT to LICK

Answers:
1. LESS, LOSS, LOSE, LORE, MORE.
2. OUST, RUST, REST, RENT, REND.
3. PEST, PENT, GENT, GENE, GENT.
4. RUBE, RUNE, RUNT, RENT, GENT.
5. SALT, SILT, SILK, SICK, LICK.

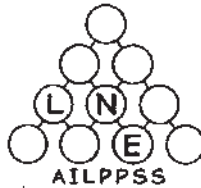
CHANCE...CHA
FIG. 1

DOODLE PICS! The two pictures shown here are graphic presentations of familiar words, phrases or names. You have one minute to identify both.

FALL PRIDE
FIG. 2

Answers: 1. Last chance. 2. "Pride goeth before a fall."

CHAIN REACTION! Take the seven letters printed below our diagram and place them in the circles so that eight four-letter words can be read, top to bottom, along the connecting lines. All the words will begin with the letter in the top circle.



Answers: Top to bottom, left to right: Fall, pals, pans, pins, pine, pipe, pips.

Illustrated by David Coulson

Strange BUT TRUE

by Samantha Weaver

■ It was American essayist Logan Pearsall Smith who made the following sage observation: It is the wretchedness of being rich that you have to live with rich people.

■ The word "avocado" is derived from a South American Indian word that means "testicle."

■ When the miniskirt was introduced to the world in the 1960s, the reaction was swift and often harsh. Women who wore them in the Malagasy Republic were sentenced to 10 days in jail. Congolese police arrested 300 women for wearing the new style, and Egyptian law branded the garment as indecent. In Caracas, Venezuela, the clergy got involved; churches admonished women to give up their minis or "be condemned to hell." Perhaps the seeming overreaction wasn't entirely unjustified, considering the effect the miniskirt had in some places. It was reported that two women wearing minis caused a two-hour traffic jam in downtown Cairo, and a 63-year-old man in Rio De Janeiro was sentenced to three days in jail after biting the legs of the miniskirt-clad woman seated next to him on a bus.

■ The first animated color TV commercial was broadcast in 1949, and it was created by none other than venerable children's book author Dr. Seuss. The ad was for the Ford Motor Company.

■ Historians say that Abraham Lincoln had a shrill, high-pitched voice rather than the deep and sonorous tones we usually hear when the 16th president is portrayed in film and television.

■ Those who study such things say that Americans' favorite T-shirt color is white, followed by blue and black.

Thought for the Day: "If you have an important point, don't try to be subtle or clever. Use a pile driver. Hit the point once. Then come back and hit it again. Then hit it a third time—a tremendous whack."—Winston Churchill

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MAGIC MAZE • HAIR CARE

OXUROLIEBYVESQN
KHCEBYWLTTSROLJ
GEOBYWULRNPNKIG
DBNZXVBOIASQOMK
IGDHECYROLOCAYW
USISQRPNUPLRJEH
FETADCA YXS MUVKU
SQIWAVEPNNHACIM
KJOHFECDIARBHPB
ZLNETHG IARTSYSX
BMOCVUELYTSTRQP

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions—forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

| | | | |
|----------|-----------|------------|------------|
| Blow dry | Comb | Shampoo | Transplant |
| Braid | Condition | Spike | Wash |
| Brush | Rinse | Straighten | Wave |
| Color | Roll | Style | |

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★

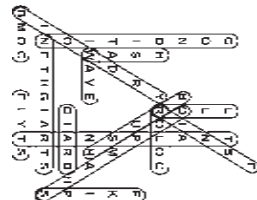
★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

| | | | | | |
|----|---|----|---|----|----|
| | - | | x | | 16 |
| + | | + | | x | |
| | ÷ | | + | | 9 |
| x | | x | | - | |
| | x | | ÷ | | 1 |
| 26 | | 15 | | 22 | |

1 2 3 4 4 5 6 7 8

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MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



HAIR CARE

GO FIGURE ANSWER

| | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| 26 | 15 | | | | | | | |
| | | 3 | x | | | | | |
| | | 6 | + | | | | | |
| | | 9 | ÷ | | | | | |
| | | x | | + | | | | |
| 16 | 4 | x | 1 | - | | | | |

Can rabbit be trained?

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: My pet rabbit, a lop-ear named "Jake," seems pretty active and alert. He flicks his ears when I hold a treat out for him, and I noticed he does the same when I move my hand in a similar way even when there is no treat. Do you think a rabbit could be trained similar to the way a dog is trained?—Clarissa T., Butte, Mont.



DEAR CLARISSA: According to animal trainer Barbara Heidenreich, it's entirely possible to do so; in fact, she's trained two of her rabbits to do agility courses. Heidenreich uses positive-reinforcement training to teach her rabbits to perform on cue.

One lop-eared rabbit, Loretta, "runs a seven-piece agility course, retrieves, spins in a circle and digs on cue. Loretta was adopted as an adult and learned most of her tricks in just a few weeks," according to a promotional release by pet behavior and training-products company Good Bird Inc.

Heidenreich says that positive reinforcement training isn't just for teaching pet tricks; owners also can use this method to address problem

behaviors and, overall, get more connected to their pets. As these fluffy animals become more and more popular as pets, she feels that learning to do more than just care for rabbits is necessary but also rewarding. If you'd like to learn more about training Jake to do tricks, visit www.bunnytraining.com, Heidenreich's site.

Send your questions or tips to ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. For more pet care-related advice and information, visit www.pawscorner.com.

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Kids' artwork makes a home memorable

Paintings and pets, or rather paintings of pets, is a dominant theme throughout the bright and cheery Hughes home in Scotts Valley, Calif. It's impossible to pass from the kitchen hallway to the living room without taking a pause to view portraits of guinea pigs Clover and Bubbles artfully arranged next to paintings of loveable cats and dogs. Painted sculptures of favorite animals and birds are tucked here and there, too. A pony, penguin and parrot sit in a row on a bedroom shelf, keeping watch over the kids' comings and goings.

"Eleven-year-old Gilian and 9-year-old Gabbie love to care for, play with and draw pictures of animals, especially our own pets," says mom Serina. "Skittles, our leopard gecko, hasn't made the wall yet because he's new, but I'm sure they'll do a portrait of him soon. Showcasing the girls' animal art as part of our home decor says a bit of who we are and what we love as a family," she adds.

Are you swimming with your kids' artwork? Why tuck it away in a closet? Show it off and make your home truly unique. Here are some quick ideas for displaying and storing art:

■ Hang six to nine same-size clipboards in rows on a hallway wall or family gathering space. They'll always be ready for displaying the latest creations in an instant. Mix and match this contemporary art display with large photos, too.

Donna's Day Creative family fun

by Donna Erickson

■ Think outside the frame, and set your child's pottery or craft projects together with a houseplant or mini bouquet of flowers. Place the arrangement on an end table by a sofa or chair.

■ Take photos of paintings, drawings and crafts. Burn a CD or create a special "Kid Art" photo file on your computer. Set to music and enjoy

watching the art show over and over together.

■ For extra keepers, store rolled-up paper artwork in mailing tubes, available at office-supply stores and the post office. Label with your child's name and grade.

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

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Distributed by King Features Synd.

Good Housekeeping

Chef's playground is the kitchen out back

By MARY MACVEAN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—Walk in the front door of chef Celestino Drago's Sherman Oaks, Calif., home, through the soaring foyer and the wide-open designer kitchen and out the back door, and you might think you've shape-shifted your way to the Italian countryside.

"The best thing for me is when it's Sunday and I am here with the kids in the garden, picking what I want to go and cook," says the chef, whose restaurant Drago Santa Monica just celebrated its 20th anniversary. That could mean a simple pasta with cherry tomatoes and basil. Or vegetables to grill with chicken or fish.

Drago seems fairly indifferent to his indoor kitchen, though it's the sort of room that agents use to sell a house. "To be honest, we don't use the one in the house much," he says.

No wonder. Outdoors, he has a huge beehive-shaped wood-burning oven, a massive dining table and everything else necessary for cooking and eating. Drago can look out, past the pool, to the hills. Or he can sit and watch one of two flat screens set high on walls at ei-

ther end of the long, rectangular, open-sided room.

His wife, Leslie, he says, is "the breakfast queen. She makes it all fresh." She also makes the school lunches for their two teenage daughters.

"That's why I never go inside," he says, adding with a joking smile, "I can keep peace with my wife."

Drago and his family moved into the house four years ago; the previous owner built it about eight years ago, he says. It's got a wine cellar and an adjacent room that would be a perfect poker hideout.

But the outdoor kitchen is what feels like the family retreat, a place for spending long hours over meals and conversation. It's where Drago makes bread and beef, grills fish and roasts vegetables and suckling pig. That last item rather horrified his family, says Drago, who also took heat when he brought a pheasant home from a hunting trip.

As a chef, he's more philosophical about the animals that become dinner, but he recognizes that children see it another way: When the Dragos went to Italy to visit his family, a new litter of the black pigs of the Nebrodi mountains had been born.



Chef Celestino Drago takes the top off a clay pot oven roasted chicken in his outdoor kitchen at his Sherman Oaks, California home, November 18, 2011.

One of his daughters took the runt, fed it goat's milk and nurtured it to join its siblings. No wonder she wasn't entranced with a suckling feast.

The pizza oven is the sort of thing that long ago would have been built first, and a house would have gone up around it.

Drago had his brought to California from Italy in five pieces and then installed at one end of the outdoor kitchen. It's a creamy yellow, with a generous stone working space on both sides of its iron doors.

His 76-year-old mother taught him just how much the wood

should burn before it's ready for cooking. Drago says he pushes the fire to the left and right of center to control the heat, and cleans ash away with a wet towel on a stick.

"It's not an easy thing to just put it on," Drago says. Sometimes, he starts the fire the day

before to make sure the whole interior chamber is hot enough.

Many foods are cooked here: steaks and other meat, small loaves of ciabatta, fish and, of course, pizza, which gets set directly on the refractory cement. He sometimes soaks a clay pot in water for cooking moist rabbit or chicken.

A metal pizza paddle is stored nearby. A tray holding salt and pepper, balsamic vinegar and olive oil is just as handy. And in a shed to one side of the oven and in a nook underneath, there's storage for wood.

When the food is done, it moves to a walnut-colored travertine island for a buffet, or a small matching table at the other end of the room, or a wooden table that seats 24 in a pinch. Plenty of people often share the table. Drago is the oldest of eight children, and three of his brothers and one sister have moved to L.A. All five are in the restaurant business.

"Cooking at home is not like cooking in the restaurant. You can put everything out and relax," Drago says. Relax. That's the main theme of this kitchen, at least for Drago, who has four restaurants, a bakery and a catering operation.

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

Citrus-Glazed Salmon

This sweet and savory salmon dish tempts every part of the palate with a melange of perky winter flavors.

- 1 1/2 pounds fennel bulbs, trimmed and chopped, fronds chopped and reserved for garnish
- 1 small (6- to 8-ounce) all-purpose potato, peeled and chopped
- 1 1/4 cups fresh orange juice
- 1/4 teaspoon lower-sodium soy sauce
- 4 (6 ounces each) center-cut salmon fillets
- Salt and pepper
- 1 tablespoon margarine or butter

1 Preheat oven to 300 F. Line 15 1/2-inch by 10 1/2-inch jelly-roll pan with foil; grease foil.

2 In 4-quart saucepan, combine fennel and potato. Add enough cold water to cover. Cover, heat to boiling on high, then reduce heat to low. Simmer 18 to 22 minutes or until vegetables are tender when pierced with tip of knife.

3 Meanwhile, in 4-quart saucepan, heat juice to boiling on high. Boil 10 minutes or until reduced to 1/2 cup. Stir in soy sauce and boil 1 minute longer.

4 While fennel and juice cook, season flesh side of salmon with 1/4 teaspoon salt and 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper. Arrange salmon in single layer in prepared pan, skin side up. Roast 12 to 18 minutes or until paler in color and knife pierces easily through side. Carefully peel skin off salmon and discard.

5 Drain fennel and potato, and transfer to food processor with knife blade attached. Add margarine, 1/4 teaspoon salt and 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper. Puree until smooth. Divide among serving plates.

6 Arrange salmon skin side down on top of fennel puree and spoon orange glaze over. Garnish with fennel fronds and serve immediately. Serves 4.

Each serving: About 420 calories, 16g total fat (3g saturated), 108mg cholesterol, 495mg sodium, 26g carbohydrate, 5g dietary fiber, 41g protein.

For thousands of triple-tested recipes, visit our website at www.goodhousekeeping.com/recipefinder/.



By ALAN J. HEAVENS
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Q: When patching a wall, do you ever see a problem with patching plaster with drywall joint compound?

A: Durabond is usually recommended for plaster repair; this ready-mix, or so-called hot mud, is good for large, small, and deep repairs. I've mixed both and haven't had a problem, but remember that one person's experience is probably not universal.

Q: What is the best/easiest method for trimming asphalt roofing shingles?

By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA
KING FEATURES SYND., INC.



Q: A neighbor of mine said that he drains his hot water heater twice a year to keep it clear. Won't draining the heater damage it?—Sal P., Tallahassee, Fla.

A: Actually, draining the water heater can help it heat water more efficiently and even extend its service life. The trick is to turn it off and let the water cool for a few hours. Then, shut off the water

Patching a wall

A. Before you install, turn the shingle over, score the back with a utility knife and bend it on the score mark. I've never tried it while actually installing the shingles, but I'd imagine you might do it the same way—except you would put something under the shingle so you don't accidentally cut something beneath it.

Q: I own a rowhouse built in 1905, and the bricks in the basement seem to be turning to dust over time. What should I do?

A: Moisture does it every time. Bricks are porous. You see the deterioration in chimney bricks

especially, so you'll need to track down the moisture source. Remember that the builders of houses in 1905 would probably be surprised that the places they built are still being occupied. They knew nothing about preservation, nor did they have much interest in the history of houses that were not occupied by the rich and famous.

Q: We are getting ready to paint our hunter-green home office red. I have heard stories about red paint problems—multiple coats required and lapping marks. We plan to use a paint with primer included.

My questions: How many coats do you think we will have to do? Is this paint up to the job?

A. I've had more trouble with red satin than semigloss, although the new no-volatile-organic-compound brand I used for the dining room required a single coat (it was merlot, not wine red, and I used a separate primer).

You will probably need two coats, but you might get a chalk-like mark if you brush up against it, as I did with the same color in our bedroom.

Think about another color, although covering the hunter green will be hard with anything lighter than it, unless you use a couple of coats of primer or more.

Questions? E-mail Alan J. Heavens at aveans@phillynews.com or write him at The Inquirer, Box 8263, Philadelphia PA 19101.

Why drain a hot-water heater?

By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA
KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

supply to the heater so it won't refill as you drain it.

Note: If you need to turn off the water supply to the entire house or part of the house in order to turn off the heater's supply, open the taps on the other sinks in your house.

Attach a length of garden hose to the water-heater drain spigot, just long enough to comfortably hang over the edge of the bucket you'll use to catch the drained water. (If a utility sink is nearby, that's an even better option; run the hose to the sink.) Turn the spigot on slowly, until it's fully open. Drain the tank as far as

possible—this could mean detaching the hose and catching the last of the water in a bucket. Then, close the spigot and turn the water supply back on to fill the tank, and turn on the heater.

If you had to turn on the other taps in the house, once the water supply is back on, turn the taps off. (You want water to run through them after a shutoff to prevent air from getting trapped in the pipes.)

Draining the water heater once or twice a year will remove sediment that can build up due to a number of factors. It's not always done in the win-

tertime, but if you have a day or two that is above freezing and you can let the heater cool overnight, go for it.

HOME TIP: Setting the water heater's temperature to "low" or "warm"—just below 120 F—will save on the cost of heating and prevent accidental scalding from water that's too hot.

Send your questions or tips to ask@thisisahammer.com, or write This Is a Hammer, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

Life & Style

Most convincing proof you can stick dinosaurs into any movie: “The Tree of Life.”

Best opening credits: “The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo.” Trent Reznor, Atticus Ross and Karen O cover Led Zeppelin’s “Immigrant Song” while David Fincher provides some appropriately sinister imagery. Bang your head.

Best end credits: “Super 8.” The short film nestled inside the credits was better than the preceding movie.

Funniest comedy: “Bridesmaids.”

Funniest comedy about a subject no one would normally think funny: “50/50,” the true story of a young man’s battle with cancer.

Funniest comedy that had a terrible trailer: “Bad Teacher.”

Funniest comedy most likely to please your AP English teacher: Woody Allen’s “Midnight in Paris.”

Least funny comedy that had a promising trailer: “Horrible Bosses.”

Worst comedy: “Jack and Jill.”

Best comic-book movie: “X-Men: First Class.”

Worst comic-book movie: “Green Lantern.”

Squarest comic-book movie: “Captain America: The First Avenger.”

Most surprisingly entertaining yet still ridiculous comic-book movie: “Thor.”

Best sequel: “A Very Harold & Kumar 3D Christmas.”

Worst sequel: “Cars 2.” No, “The Hangover Part II.” No, “Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides.” No, wait, “Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked.” No, wait ...

Most superfluous sequel: “Scream 4.” If you’re not going to kill off any of the returning major characters, then why bother?

Best comeback: “The Muppets.”

Worst comeback: “The Smurfs.”

Best remake: “Straw Dogs.”

Most tolerable remake: “Footloose.”

Most passable remake that sounded like a decent idea but turned out to be pointless: “Fright Night.”

Worst remake: “Arthur.”

Worst remake disguised as a prequel: “The Thing.”

Most disappointing execution of an intriguing premise: Mel Gibson as a man who speaks only through a hand puppet in “The Beaver.”

Most convincing argument never to shake other people’s hands again, ever: Steven Soderbergh’s “Contagion.”

Best sports movie: “Moneyball.”

Best sports movie for people who couldn’t care less about sports: “Moneyball.”

Best shameless “Rocky” rip-off: “Warrior.”

Best entrance: In “Margin Call,” the CEO (Jeremy Irons) of an investment firm on the brink of disaster arrives via helicopter in the middle of the night—a vampire who feeds by chewing the scenery.

Best performance by an animal (tie): Uggie from “The Artist” and Cosmo from “Beginners,” both proving Jack Russells may be the smartest dogs of all.

Most wildly overlong scene we’re really glad they didn’t trim down: The airplane ride in “Bridesmaids.”

Best plot twist conveyed by a single word of dialogue: “The Skin I Live

In.” Wait, he said WHAT?

Best birth scene: The baby arrives in “The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn—Part I.” Vampire fangs come in pretty handy when you can’t find any surgical scissors.

Best opening scene: The astonishing eight-minute prologue to “Melancholia”—postcards from the apocalypse.

Best closing scene: “Martha Marcy May Marlene.” Terror, interrupted.

Best closing dialogue: A husband and wife in “Take Shelter.” “See?” “OK.”

Best children’s movie: “Kung Fu Panda 2.”

Worst children’s movie: “Arthur

Best car chase played out at 800 miles per hour: “Fast Five.”

Strongest evidence the French can make action movies just as good as Hollywood: “Point Blank.”

Strongest evidence the French should not make action movies: “The Heir Apparent: Largo Winch.”

Best reason to demand a moratorium on romantic comedies: “Something Borrowed.”

Best reason to demand more romantic comedies: “Crazy, Stupid, Love.”

Best boy-girl couple: Daniel Craig and Rooney Mara in “The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo.”

Best boy-boy couple: Robert

Most irredeemable bitch: Charlize Theron’s bitter prom queen, now grown-up and miserable, in “Young Adult.”

Biggest jump-scare: A man sets a glass on a table in “The Artist.”

Most unfairly reviled movie: Zack Snyder’s “Sucker Punch.”

Best perfectly adequate TV movie that somehow made it into theaters: “The Lincoln Lawyer.”

Most ingenious premise: “The Skin I Live In.”

Most ridiculous premise: “The Adjustment Bureau.” Magical doors!

Most squandered premise: “Source Code.” Because “Groundhog Day” did it a lot better.

Best premise in search of a worthy plot: The sci-fi thriller “In Time.”

Best special effect: Making Eddie Murphy again in “Tower Heist.”

Worst special effect: The telepathic wolves in “Breaking Dawn: Part 1.”

Coolest special effect: The repeated point-of-view shots of a camera hurtling through the streets of New York in “Limitless.”

Most impressive special effect where you couldn’t spot the CGI: Tom Cruise dangling from the side of the Burj Khalifa in “Mission: Impossible—Ghost Protocol.”

Most impressive special effect that didn’t rely on any CGI whatsoever: Michael Fassbender in “Shame.”

Best action sequence in a good movie: The chase through Morocco, done in one take with no cuts, in “The Adventures of Tintin.”

Best action sequence in a bad movie: A skyscraper breaks in half, sending people sliding down the side of the building while giant robots attack, in “Transformers: Dark of the Moon.”

Best 10-minute action sequence disguised as a movie: The battle atop the Golden Gate Bridge at the end of “Rise of the Planet of the Apes.”

Best ridiculously prolonged action sequence: The last 40 minutes of “13 Assassins,” a bloody ballet of outrageous mayhem.

Most enjoyably preposterous action sequence: In “The Green Hornet,” Seth Rogen and Jay Chou drive their 1965 Chrysler into an elevator and through the offices of a newspaper, even after the car has been cut in half.

Best fight scene: Three men try to murder each other inside a speeding taxicab in “I Saw the Devil.”

Most compelling movie where almost nothing happened: “Meek’s Cutoff.”

Best example of showing the youngsters how it’s done: Werner Herzog (“Cave of Forgotten Dreams”), Martin Scorsese (“Hugo”) and Steven Spielberg (“The Adventures of Tintin”) made their first 3-D movies. More, please.

Best noble intention that backfired: Kevin Smith made a big stink about releasing his horror movie “Red State” to theaters without relying on the media or studio distribution. The film wound up being seen primarily on pay-per-view and DVD.

Actor of the year: Brad Pitt (“Moneyball,” “The Tree of Life”).

Actress of the year: Jessica Chastain (“Take Shelter,” “The Tree of Life,” “The Help,” “The Debt,” “Coriolanus”).

Best 2011 movie no one saw: Kenneth Lonergan’s “Margaret,” an extraordinary portrait of an adolescent girl (played by Anna Paquin) whose life is changed by a bus accident. The movie sat on a shelf for six years, then was dumped into a handful of theaters by distributor Fox Searchlight. For shame.

Best 2011 movie that won’t open in most cities until 2012: The Iranian drama “A Separation.”

Worst 2011 movie that won’t open in most cities until 2012: “Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close.”

2012 movie we’re anticipating the most: Ridley Scott’s “Prometheus.”

2011 movie yearbook

By RENE RODRIGUEZ
THE MIAMI HERALD

Here is one last, highly irreverent look at the best and worst in film of 2011—and everything in between.



Christmas.”

Best children’s movie that was too long and slow for kids: “Hugo.”

Best big-budget use of a formula that never gets old: Aliens invade in “Battle: Los Angeles.”

Best low-budget use of a formula that never gets old: Aliens invade in “Attack the Block.”

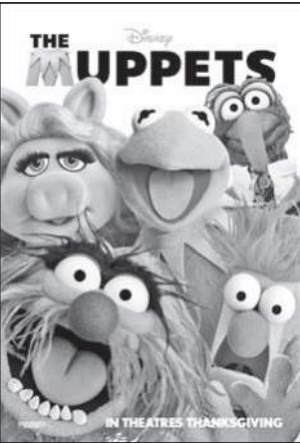
Worst use of a formula that never gets old: Aliens invade in “The Darkest Hour.”

Dullest history lesson: Robert Redford’s “The Conspirator” managed to make the Lincoln assassination boring.

Dumbest conspiracy theory: Roland Emmerich’s preposterous Shakespeare-bashing in “Anonymous.”

Best reason to dread the holidays: “New Year’s Eve.”

Best car chase played out as a game of chess: “Drive.”



Downey, Jr. and Jude Law in “Sherlock Holmes: Game of Shadows.”

Best girl-girl couple: Nikohl Boosheri and Sarah Kazemy in “Circumstance,” the Iranian drama about two teenage girls in love.

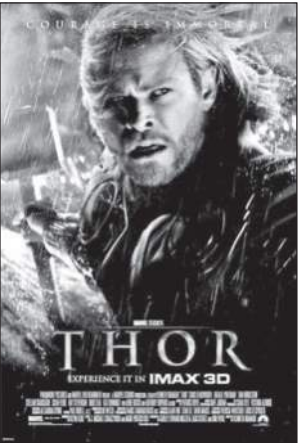
Best kickass septuagenarian: Maggie Smith throwing down on the Dark Lord in “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2.”

Biggest sell-out: Former indie-film darling David Gordon Green, who directed two of the year’s worst comedies (“Your Highness” and “The Sitter”).

Best example of Hollywood creativity: The near-identical plots of “No Strings Attached” and “Friends with Benefits.”

Best gross-out gag: An emergency in a bridal shop in “Bridesmaids.”

Best reason never to eat chocolate pie again: Octavia Spencer’s special dessert in “The Help.”



Best example of a really bad idea that probably sounded good on paper: “Cowboys & Aliens.”

Best reason to root for the wolf: “Red Riding Hood.”

Most ridiculously overpraised movie: David Cronenberg’s “A Dangerous Method.”

Most convincing proof the clock is ticking down on Taylor Lautner’s 15 minutes of fame: “Abduction.”

Biggest whore: Nicolas Cage (“Season of the Witch,” “Drive Angry,” “Tresspass”).

Biggest whore who at least seemed to be having fun while collecting his paycheck: “Jack and Jill’s” Al Pacino.

Best homage to 1980s-era Spielberg movies: “Super 8.”

Worst homage to 1980s-era Spielberg movies: “Paul.”

Best movie Spielberg directed this year: “War Horse.”



World loses notable beauties, artists, and villains in 2011

By **JOHN TIMPANE**
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Some believe that in 2011, the world lost its most beautiful woman.

When Elizabeth Taylor, 79, took leave of this life in March, hers joined many celebrated names now in the possession of memory and history. Her beautiful face, and the Everyman face of Harry Morgan ("M*A*S*H" and much else), who passed away at 96, led a cavalcade of lives completed this year.

NEWSMAKERS

By far the biggest newsmaker to die this year was Osama bin Laden, 54, terrorist leader of al-Qaida. Apple innovator and visionary Steve Jobs, 56, moved on to the next vision. Moammar Gadhafi, 69, deposed leader of Libya, was joined by North Korean totalitarian Kim Jong Il, 69, who left things to his son. On the freer side of things, poet, president, and peacemaker Václav Havel was 75. Jack Kevorkian, known as "Dr. Death" for his championship of suicide, met his own end at 83. If there was a "Dr. Life," it may well have been jumpsuited exercise evangelist Jack LaLanne, 96.

POLITICS

Many names from U.S. political history bowed out, including vice presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro, 75, once-U.S. Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleberger, 80, and diplomat Warren Christopher, 85. Remarkably accomplished Sargent Shriver, who helped launch the Peace Corps, Head Start and the Special Olympics, took his rest at 95. It was a year when political families lost important members, including beloved Betty Ford, 93 (wife of Gerald); Kara Kennedy, 51 (daughter of Ted); Eleanor Mondale, 51 (daughter of Walter); and Dorothy Rodham, 82 (mother of Hillary Rodham Clinton). Longtime political columnist David Broder, 81, has joined the celestial press box. And brave, indomitable civil-rights pioneer Fred Shuttlesworth, 89, has the best reward of all.

SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

Among engineers and scientists were Robert Stempel, 77, CEO of General Motors and a pioneer of such eco-friendly innovations as catalytic converters and front-wheel drive. John McCarthy, 84, made up the term AI for artificial intelligence. and Dennis Ritchie, 70, was another computer pioneer who invented the C programming language and helped develop Unix. Norman Foster Ramsey Jr., 96, was key in the development of atomic clocks and in NATO. Paul M. Doty, 81, was an eminent biochemist, participant in the Manhattan project, and peace activist. Nobelist and chemist Herbert A. Hauptman, was 94. And Lynn Margulis, 73, was a very influential evolutionary biologist and ecologist.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Michael Jordan engaged to model Yvette Prieto

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Michael Jordan is engaged to longtime girlfriend Yvette Prieto, a Cuban-American model he's been dating for three years. Publicist Estee Portnoy confirmed the news, first reported by WCNC in Charlotte, on Thursday. The Bobcats owner got engaged over the Christmas weekend. No wedding date has been set.



Elizabeth Taylor

SPORTS

Many were the gamesters and sports people who departed the field this year. The pugilistic arts were especially hard hit, with "Smokin'" Joe Frazier leaving the ring at 67, promoter Butch Lewis at 65, fighter Ron Lyle at 70, and wrestler Randy "Macho Man" Savage at 58. Football owner Al Davis, 82, doesn't have to growl any more. Grete Waitz, 57, has broken the tape in the greatest marathon of all, and brilliant soccer star Socrates has found the ultimate goal. Baseball lost three wonderful players and people in Duke Snider, 84, Harmon Killebrew, 74, and Matty Alou, 72, among many others. Basketball lost creative, classy Walter Hazzard, 69. And both football and film lost Bubba Smith, 66.

MUSIC

The already fabulous Celestial Band gained many new members. Cesária Évora, 70, barefoot diva of Cape Verde, now sings forever. Sylvia Robinson, hip-hop pioneer, was 75, and Milton Babbitt, electronic music pioneer, was 94. Nick Ashford, 70, of Ashford and Simpson, can now sing to the sax of Clarence Clemons, 69, of Bruce Springsteen's E Street Band, and the uncanny, spectacular stylings of George Shearing, 91, who can see fine now. Rapper Heavy D was 44, Nate Dogg was 41, and Slim Dunkin was 24. Bluegrass royalty Hazel Dickens was 75. Gerry Rafferty, 63, is no longer stuck in the middle, and the soul of Dobie Gray, 71, is now forever free, as are those of rock 'n' roll pensmiths Jerry Ragovoy, 80, and Jerry Lieber, 78. Paul Motian, 80, can

now bring his coolest of drum sounds to the highest level. Two poets, rap godfather Gil Scott-Heron, 62, and Phoebe Snow, 60, can match beats, while Hubert Sumlin, 80, and David "Honeyboy" Edwards, 96, play sweet blues guitar, and Pinetop Perkins, 97, shows what it's all about on keys, and TV on the Radio's Gerard Smith, 36, plays bass. Bill Tapia, historic ukulelist, 103, can accompany R&B man Howard Tate, 72, while Roger Williams, 87, plays those rolling glissandos. The tragic Amy Winehouse, 27, brings her voice to a perpetually appreciative audience, along with Teena Marie, 54. And Don Kirschner, 76, can manage the whole show.

TV/FILM

James Arness, 88, has holstered his last six-shooter, and Jackie Cooper, 88, was a baby face to the last. Speaking of beautiful faces, Susannah York, 72, had one of the loveliest, and Michael Sarrazin, 70, had two of the most soulful eyes. Maria Schneider, 58, can compare notes on arrival with Marlon Brando. Ryan Dunn ("Jackass"), 34, can compete with Peter Falk, 83, to see who's most mischievous, while Anne Francis, 80, looks on. Handsome Farley Granger was 85. Andy Whitfield, 39, and Dana Wynter, 94, will be on hand as Dolores Hope, 102, finds husband Bob waiting for her, and Arthur Laurents, 93, and director Sidney Lumet, 86, can trade good ones. David Nelson, 74, can tell stories about his parents, Ozzie and Harriet, to Pete Postlethwaite, 64, and Cliff Robertson, 88, while Andy Rooney, 92, complains that heaven ain't what it used to be. Jane Russell, 89, stood out among Technicolor babes, as did Ken Russell, 84, among directors. Sherwood Schwartz, 94, can hang out with Bob Denver, Alan Hale Jr., Jim Backus and other "Gilligan's Island" alums. And Yvette Vickers ("Attack of the 50-Foot Woman"), 82, doesn't have to worry about her height anymore.

RADIO

The wave world lost big names, including poet of the radio Norman Corwin, 101, and crazy guy Fred Imus, 69, brother of Don.

ARTS AND LITERATURE

Painters Lucien Freud, 88, and Cy Twombly, 83, have perfected their canvases. Two longtime masters of the daily comics, Bil Keane (Family Circus), 89, and Tom Wilson (Ziggy), 80, need not come up with a strip every day anymore. Among writers, the wonderful Palestinian poet Taha Muhammad Ali, 80, has found the peace his writing foretold, and American Michael S. Hart, 64, author, inventor of the e-book, and founder of Project Gutenberg, is now beyond the electronic text. German post-modernist novelist Christa Wolf, 82, joins stately Reynolds Price, 77, and spiritual Samuel Menashe, 85. And the exacting and excellent Christopher Hitchens, 62, has found release from long struggle.

season. Representatives for the 47-year-old country singer say her boyfriend, Cactus Moser, popped the question on Christmas Eve. They have been dating since 2009. Moser, 54, is a drummer with the country group Highway 101. The couple are currently on tour as Wynonna and The Big Noise. This will be Judd's third marriage. She has two teenage children with her first husband.

Friend fears middle-schooler's romance is headed for trouble

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My friend "Kayla" and I are 12 and in seventh grade. Recently, Kayla informed me that she has acquired a new boyfriend. I didn't mind when she showed me all his lovey-dovey texts. I thought they were adorable.

When I asked Kayla why her boyfriend didn't sit with us at lunch, she laughed and said, "Oh, he doesn't go to school here. He's a junior in high school." That's why I'm writing.

Kayla is telling me that she and "Jacob" are making out, and their texts are getting progressively worse. Plus, Kayla has said her parents are taking her and Jacob to a concert. The concert is out of town and they will be renting a hotel room. I'm worried for my friend.

Am I incorrect for thinking this is wrong?

WORRIED FRIEND IN WASHINGTON STATE

DEAR WORRIED FRIEND: I agree with you that at 12, Kayla is too young to have a 16-year-old boyfriend. That her parents give her enough unsupervised time with him that they're involved in makeout sessions is also troubling. If this continues, Kayla could become pregnant and Jacob could be accused of statutory rape—even if Kayla was a willing participant.

Talk to your mother about what's going on. She may want to chat with Kayla's parents about this and mention the texts Jacob is sending their daughter.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have a question that may seem odd, but I hope you can give me an answer.

I know children can tell when a parent favors one sibling over another. What about cats? I adopted two cats—not littermates—from a shelter. While I love them both, one drives me crazy and the other is a sweet lovebug. Naturally, I prefer the sweet, cuddly one.

Can the kitty that drives me nuts tell that I prefer his "sister" over him?

LOVE 'EM BOTH, REALLY, ALBANY, N.Y.

DEAR LOVE 'EM BOTH: While I'm more of a people expert than an animal behaviorist, let me share this. Cats and dogs, after thousands of years of living so closely with us humans, are indeed sensitive to human emotions. They can tell when we're happy, when we are nervous and when we're depressed. If you lavish affection and/or treats on one and not the other, it can create jealousy.

You don't know the history of the cats you adopted. It's possible the one that makes you "crazy" had less human contact than "Lovebug" or was mistreated in some way. With patience and positive reinforcement he may come around, so please don't give up on him.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: One of my brothers, "Carl," walked away from our family 18 years ago. My parents are elderly and in poor health. When they pass, how do we refer to this sibling in the obituary?

DRAWING A BLANK IN OHIO

DEAR DRAWING A BLANK: The entire family history does not have to be revealed in the obituary. All it should say is, "Survivors include: daughter Wendy, (husband, if there is one) of Ohio; son George, (wife); and son Carl." If you know where Carl is, include the information. If not, his name should be enough.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR READERS: The year is almost over. Am I the only one who can't believe how fast it has gone? Incredible! From the bottom of my heart, I wish all of you a happy, healthy and prosperous 2012. If you plan on driving tonight, please don't drink. And if you'll be drinking tonight, please don't drive. Stay safe, everyone!

LOVE, ABBY

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



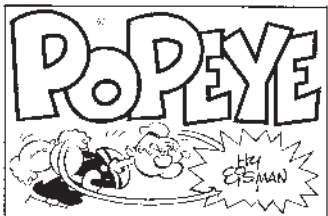
Differences: 1. Barbershop pole has been added. 2. Plant has replaced picture. 3. Bowl is empty. 4. Razor is different. 5. Extra bottle is on counter. 6. Cabinet is different.

Wishing Well®

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HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

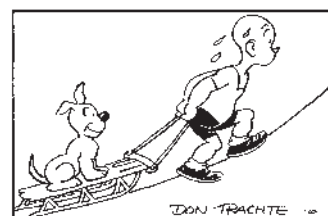
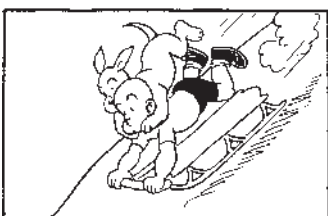
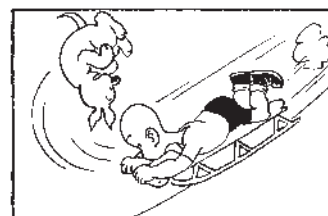
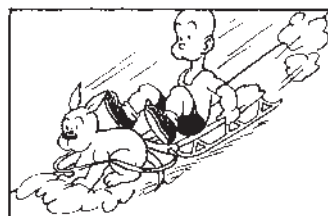
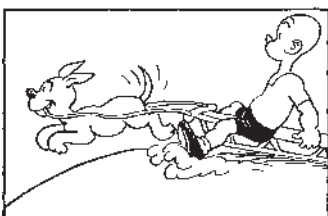
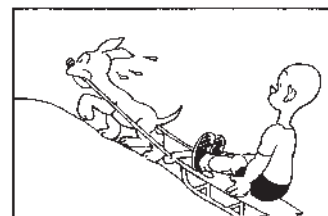
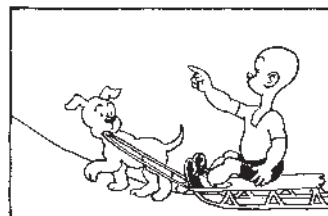
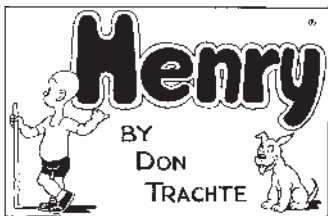
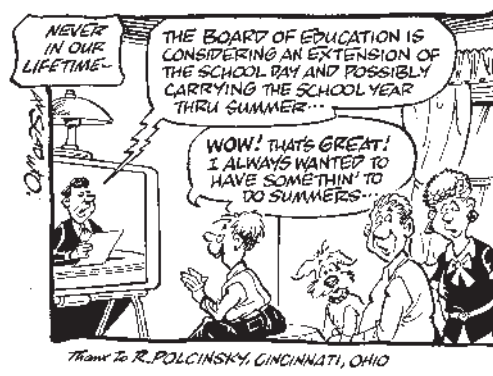
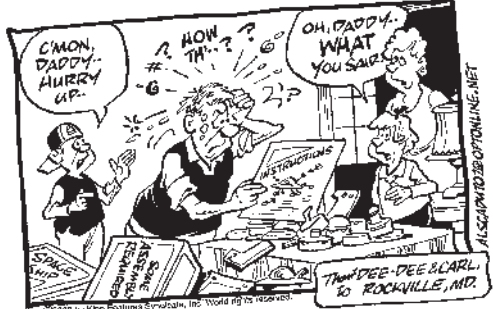
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They'll Do It Every Time

by Al Scaduto

ARFO JUST ISN'T HANDY...CAN'T DO ANYTHING RIGHT...SO HOW COME EVERYTHING HE BUMS FOR JUNIOR REQUIRES ASSEMBLING?



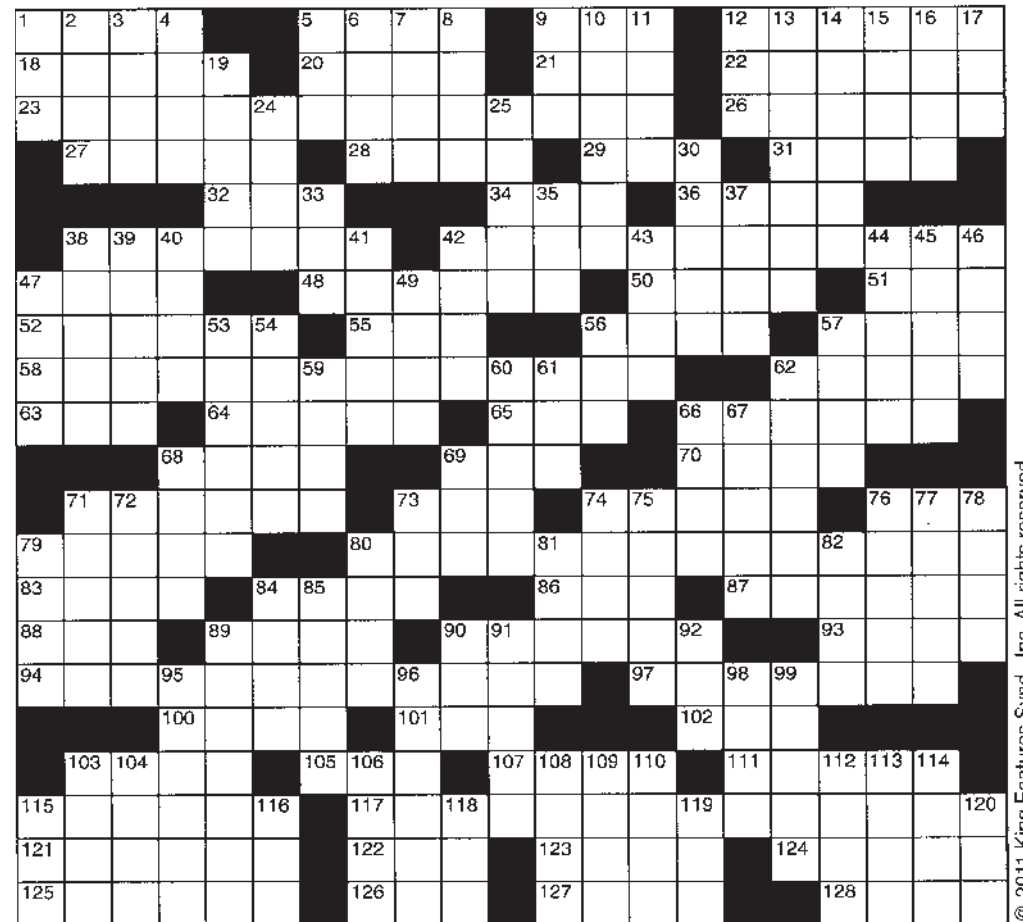
Super Crossword I WITNESS

ACROSS

- 1 Cheryl of "Charlie's Angels"
- 5 — ghanouj
- 9 "Sister —" ('92 film)
- 12 Rodeo ropes
- 18 "America's Most Wanted" info
- 20 Panache
- 21 Chase away gray
- 22 Changes
- 23 Start of a remark by Gene Perret
- 26 Rice dish
- 27 Tangle
- 28 Quahog, e.g.
- 29 Consumed a knish
- 31 Cart
- 32 Altar oath
- 34 Hair ball?
- 36 "The — Is High" ('80 hit)
- 38 Hazard
- 42 Part 2 of remark
- 47 Bete noire
- 48 Reserved
- 50 Mideast
- 51 Supp.
- 52 Way in
- 55 Lend a hand
- 56 Noah's eldest
- 57 Cornmeal concoction
- 58 Part 3 of remark
- 62 Surround
- 63 West ender?
- 64 Greene of "Bonanza"
- 65 Author LeShan
- 66 Picturesque
- 68 — shui
- 69 Switch-board abbr.
- 70 Irish island group
- 71 Asian island
- 73 Joanne of "Red River"
- 74 Cavalry weapon
- 76 Spare part?
- 79 French dynast
- 80 Part 4 of remark
- 83 — of passage
- 84 University ordeal
- 86 Family vehicle
- 87 A hole near the sole
- 88 Sien relative
- 89 Profess
- 90 Walked off with
- 93 Pickable
- 94 Part 5 of remark
- 97 Act like a mirror
- 100 Dweeb
- 101 Empower
- 102 Dernier —
- 103 Bear's advice
- 105 Puppy bark
- 107 Role for Liz
- 111 Stout
- 115 Reach
- 117 End of remark
- 121 Hispanic
- 122 Cover the cake
- 123 The — Brothers
- 124 Lofty spaces
- 125 Exchanged
- 126 Getz's instrument
- 127 Sammy or Stubby
- 128 No sweat
- 8 Novelist Seton
- 9 "Tobacco Road" character
- 10 Nosy guy?
- 11 Try out
- 12 Drink like a dachshund
- 13 '92 Disney film
- 14 Audiophile's equipment
- 15 Ward of "Sisters"
- 16 French airport
- 17 Govt. agency
- 19 Printer's stroke
- 24 Robert of "Rhapsody in Blue"
- 25 Fireplace fragment
- 30 Practice piece
- 33 Vintage
- 35 Manipulate
- 37 Bookkeeping entry
- 38 Dad-to-be, often
- 39 Like Machu Picchu
- 40 Rock hound?
- 41 Find out
- 42 Designer Gernreich
- 43 Cowardly Lion Bert
- 44 Mother Judd
- 45 Jerkin
- 46 Draft animals
- 47 Movie piglet
- 49 Boxer Tyson
- 53 Taciturn
- 54 Teatime treat
- 56 Where the gulls are
- 57 Quaker colonist
- 59 As a result
- 60 Link
- 61 Banned pesticide
- 62 Cordial
- 66 "The Thief of Bagdad" star
- 67 Minos' realm
- 68 Manumit
- 69 Misjudge
- 71 Feltlike fabric
- 72 Eye-related
- 73 Singer Shannon
- 74 Ginger cookie
- 75 One of the Yokums
- 76 Antique
- 77 Like a lummo
- 78 — the bullet
- 79 Muck
- 80 Dupe
- 81 Roman poet
- 82 Present
- 84 Mind — matter
- 85 Actor McDowell
- 89 "Sweet —" (1903 song)
- 90 Heifer or hen
- 91 Good speller?
- 92 Cal. page
- 95 Like mother-of-pearl, often
- 96 Lama kin
- 98 Starting at
- 99 Neighbor of Niger
- 103 Christmas-tree topper
- 104 Singer James
- 106 Mascagni opera
- 108 Plumbing problem
- 109 "Cope Book" aunt
- 110 Heed
- 112 Punta del —
- 113 Blood components
- 114 "— Coming" ('69 song)
- 115 Cockpit fig.
- 116 Head motion
- 118 John Ritter's dad
- 119 Language suffix
- 120 Weldon or Wray

DOWN

- 1 Chou En —
- 2 Charity
- 3 Anthropolologist
- 4 Arp's art
- 5 Role for a rat
- 6 Baldwin of "Malice"
- 7 Cry like a baby



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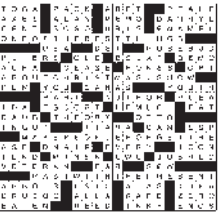
Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which youth group's slogan is "Learn by doing"?
2. TELEVISION: Who was the German commandant of Stalag 13 in TV's "Hogan's Heroes"?
3. U.S. GOVERNMENT: Which state did Harry Byrd represent in the U.S. Senate for 32 years?
4. INVENTORS: Who was the inventor of the first practical process of photography?
5. MYTHOLOGY: Who was the Greek goddess Persephone?
6. HISTORY: What did Jack Ruby, who killed JFK assassin Lee Harvey Oswald, do for a living?
7. SPORTS: When was the Stanley Cup first awarded?
8. THEATER: Tennessee Williams won a Pulitzer Prize for which one of his plays in 1948?
9. GEOGRAPHY: The city of Cartagena, Spain, lies next to which body of water?
10. EXPLORERS: What was the nationality of polar explorer Roald Amundsen?

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1. 4-H
2. Col. Wilhelm Klink
3. Virginia
4. Louis Daguerre
5. Queen of the underworld
6. Ruby was a Dallas nightclub owner
7. 1893
8. "A Streetcar Named Desire"
9. Mediterranean Sea
10. Norwegian

Saturday's Answers



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

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|------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|
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| • 5-Liner | \$24 | \$39 |
| • 3-Liner with picture | \$24 | \$42 |
| • 5-Liner with picture | \$36 | \$57 |

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Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

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REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the public that



Mr. EUGENIO C. SANTOS,

former Sales Representative of

Transamerica (Saipan) Corporation Grocery Wholesale is no longer connected with our company effective **29 December 2011** and therefore not authorized to act, in any form whatsoever, on company's behalf.

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- Provides goal oriented intervention directed toward management of ESRD disease by education of the patient in renal diet and fluid intake management.
- Maintains a close working relationship with the multi-disciplinary ESRD team of dialysis in planning for patients care and attends departmental staff meetings.
- Attends facility in-services, meetings and provides educational programs requested.
- Documents all tasks thoroughly in patient's medical records to maintain dietary records and statistics.
- Establishes yearly goals with Medical Director/Unit manager in relations to specialty program/service.
- Assists in the development, implementation and evaluation of dietary policies and procedures.
- Initiates and/or participates in patient education and treatment programs, such as developing dietary educational materials.
- Participates in professional and other community organizations and activities serving clientele.
- Performs all other duties as assigned.

Education/Experience:

- Holds a baccalaureate or advance degree in food and nutrition or dietetics.
- Has at least one year experience in clinic nutrition.
- Good interpersonal/communication skills.
- Must comply with the law and regulations of the state dietary or nutritional licensing body.

Please submit resume or pick-up application at Saipan Health Clinic, at Chalan Kiya or send email to Connie Aldan or Judy Arriola at hpcshc@pticom.com. No phone calls please.

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PRO SE

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IN RE THE GUARDIANSHIP OF PATIENCE ARIANNA SABLAN BORJA
Minor Child
by
JUAN C. SABLAN and ANGELINA S. SABLAN
Petitioners.

FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0534
NOTICE OF HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardianship for the above-named minor child by Juan C. and Angelina S. Sablan, Petitioners, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court and is open for review at the office of the Clerk of the said Court in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will be held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Guma Hustisia Building, Susupe, Saipan, NMI, before the Honorable Perry B. Inos on the 12th day of January, 2012 at 9:30 A.M. or as soon as thereafter.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

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Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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FRIDAY JANUARY 7, 2011
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REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK
By JAYVEE VALLEJERA
Editor: jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Durant leads Thunder past Mavericks, 104-102



OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Kevin Durant thought he might have just given away a victory and let the Dallas Mavericks steal another one in heartbreaking fashion.

Then he found a way to take it right back.

Durant scored 30 points and hit a 3-pointer at the final buzzer to lift the Oklahoma City Thunder to a 104-102 win against Dallas on Thursday night in a rematch of last season's Western Conference finals.

"As a kid, of course you dream about hitting a game-winning shot in the NBA," said Durant, who has hit two other game-winners at the buzzer in his five seasons.

"It's a dream come true."

The Thunder let Dallas wipe away a five-point deficit in the final 46 seconds to go ahead on Vince Carter's 3-pointer with 1.4 seconds remaining. That was just enough time for Thabo Sefolosha to get the ball to Durant, who drilled a 3 from the right wing that improved his team to 4-0.

"It was crazy, a crazy course of events," Durant said. "When two tough teams always go at it, it always comes down to the last play."

Dirk Nowitzki had 29 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Mavericks, whose title defense is off to a 0-3 start. Dallas had been blown out in its first two losses against Miami and Denver before letting a close one slip away.

"I think the more we go out and just play the game itself more, good things happen on the court," Shawn Marion said.

"We've got to just go out there and stop worrying about other things and just go out there and just play the game and just play hard."

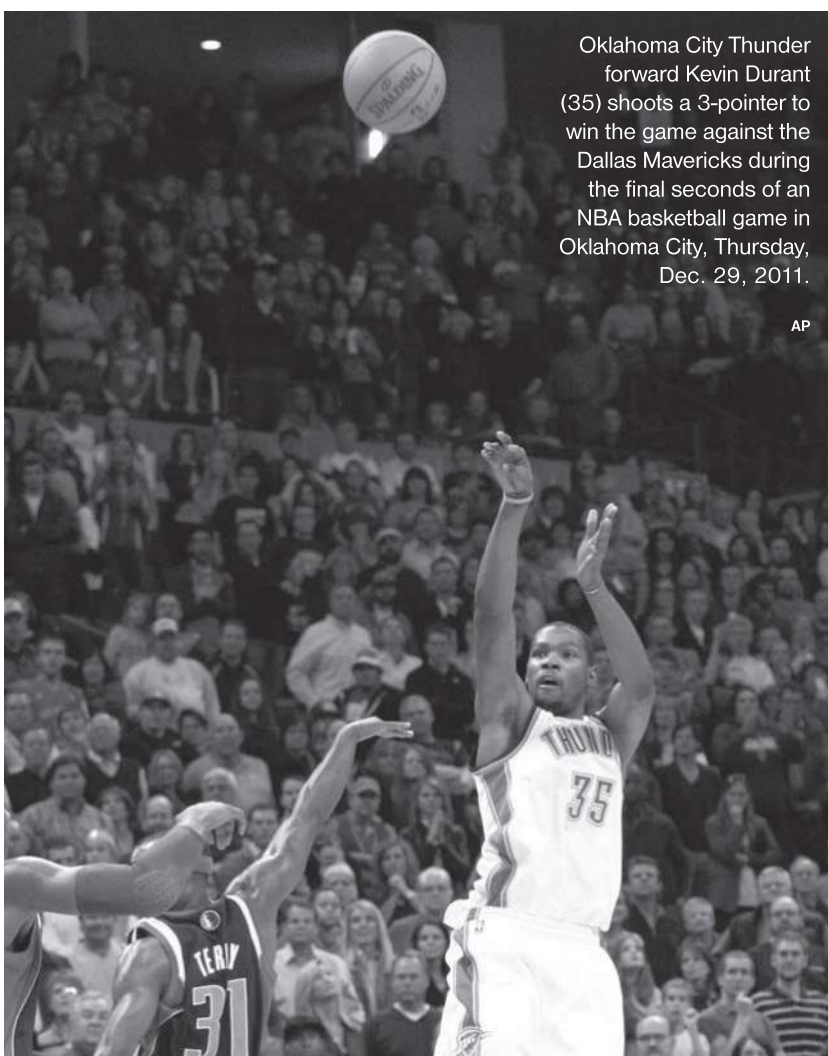
Russell Westbrook had 16 points in his second straight subpar performance, but he made up for it with a few critical plays down the stretch.

He started the game 3 for 11—with one of the makes coming when Jason Kidd blocked his shot and Brendan Haywood tipped it up and in—and had seven turnovers before getting a longer-than-usual benching in favor of Eric Maynor.

Westbrook returned when the game got close midway through the fourth quarter, providing a momentary lead with a two-handed breakaway dunk that turned into a three-point play.

He followed that with a 17-footer from the right wing for a 96-93 lead, but the Mavericks—who made it a habit to stage late comebacks against Oklahoma City in last season's West finals—had a few tricks left.

Nowitzki tied it at 96 with a 3-pointer but, after a Durant jumper, was called for a technical foul for arguing an offensive foul. Durant hit that foul shot



Oklahoma City Thunder forward Kevin Durant (35) shoots a 3-pointer to win the game against the Dallas Mavericks during the final seconds of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City, Thursday, Dec. 29, 2011.

AP

and Westbrook added another jumper from the right elbow to put Oklahoma City up 101-96 with 46 seconds left.

Jason Terry hit a 3-pointer to get Dallas within two. Durant then missed a 3-pointer at the other end and Serge Ibaka missed both of his free throws after getting fouled on an offensive rebound.

Nowitzki pitched it back to Carter for the go-ahead 3, and Durant blamed himself for going for a block against Nowitzki and leaving Carter open.

Durant returned to the bench for a timeout, with rookie Reggie Jackson screaming encouragement that he was going to hit the game-winner.

"I just tried to be confident, tell myself I could make it and luckily I did," Durant said.

"It's special to hit a game-winner," he added. "The season's still young. To beat the champs in the early season is always pretty cool, but we've got to move on and get ready for the next game."

Ibaka finished with 16 points, eight rebounds and three blocks for Oklahoma City.

Terry had 16 points and nine assists, and Delonte West scored 15 for the Mavericks, who rallied from 15 points down in the final 5 minutes of regulation in Game 4 of the West finals—the teams' last meeting that counted in the arena. Dallas also overcame an eight-point, fourth-quarter deficit in the clinching Game 5.

Before the game, both Oklahoma

City All-Stars downplayed a report in *The Oklahoman* of a dispute between them during the team's win at Memphis a night earlier.

"It wasn't nothing that people should be blowing out of proportions," Durant said. "It happens every single day. Teams go through emotions, things happen. It's a competitive sport. Everybody's not going to always come in and be happy every single day."

Westbrook simply said: "What happened? I don't know what you're talking about."

Coach Scott Brooks said the whole team was frustrated over a series of bad possessions of pick-and-roll defense and everyone, not just the superstars, but he didn't see it as anything out of the ordinary.

"To me, an altercation—in my world, it's a fight or it's a shove or something like that. A debate or a discussion is totally different than an altercation but that did not happen," Brooks said. "I've been coaching these guys for four years and we haven't had one fight, which surprises me, and we haven't had any issues that were below the belt that I had to step in."

Brooks said he thinks it drew more attention only because the Thunder are now a prominent team.

"I don't really think nothing happened. ... Everybody on the bench was yelling, the coaches was yelling, not at each other in a bad way but trying to

get everything in order," Durant said.

Rockets 105, Spurs 85

In Houston, Kevin Martin scored 25 points to lead Houston to a comfortable win over San Antonio.

Luis Scola added 18 for the Rockets, who took advantage of the Spurs' poor shooting at the start to build a big lead.

First-year Houston coach Kevin McHale was able to rest his starters in the fourth quarter, with his team playing the first of three games on consecutive nights.

DeJuan Blair scored 22 points and grabbed 12 rebounds for San Antonio, which shot 38 percent (35 of 93) and went 2 for 17 from 3-point range.

Magic 94, Nets 78

In Orlando, Ryan Anderson scored 22 points for Orlando, which had little trouble shaking off New Jersey.

Dwight Howard had 16 points and 24 rebounds for the Magic, recording the 49th 20-rebound game of his career and coming within two of equalling his personal best.

Rookie forward MarShon Brooks led the Nets with 17 points.

Lakers 99, Knicks 82

In Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant scored 28 points in yet another dynamic performance against the Knicks, as Los Angeles pulled away in the fourth quarter for their ninth straight victory over New York.

Pau Gasol had 16 points, 10 rebounds and five assists for the Lakers.

Carmelo Anthony scored 27 points in his first showdown with Bryant since joining the Knicks, but New York again struggled late.

The Lakers opened the fourth quarter with a 17-3 run, taking a 22-point lead and forcing the Knicks to miss nine of their first 10 shots while committing seven turnovers. Bryant didn't even need to score in the fourth quarter, contributing three assists as Los Angeles roared away.

The Lakers have dominated this rivalry in recent years, winning every meeting since February 2007 with Bryant averaging more than 34 points per game.

Trail Blazers 111, Nuggets 102

In Portland, Wesley Matthews had 25 points, including five 3-pointers in the second half, as Portland defeated Denver to stay undefeated after three games this season.

Raymond Felton had 23 points, including a 3-pointer with 1:45 left as the Blazers pulled away from the Nuggets, who knotted the game 98-98 midway through the fourth quarter.

Portland led by as many as 13 points in the first half but the team was plagued by 25 turnovers.

Ty Lawson had 25 points and eight steals for the Nuggets, who dropped their first game of the season.

Bulls 108, Kings 98

In Sacramento, Derrick Rose had 19 points and eight assists as Chicago earned a victory over Sacramento.

The Bulls ran off 15 straight points early in the game and never trailed again in defeating the Kings, the NBA's youngest team.

Carlos Boozer had 16 points and 15 rebounds for the Bulls.

Marcus Thornton had 20 points to lead Sacramento.

Kobe: I directed A-Rod to knee therapy in Germany

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kobe Bryant confirms he recently directed Alex Rodriguez to the German doctor who performed the treatment the Yankees' slugger had on his right knee.

"I gave him the phone number," Bryant said Thursday night before the Los Angeles Lakers hosted the New York Knicks.

Bryant opened up about the steps he has taken to heal his arthritic joints in a rare pregame interview, crediting the therapy with dramatic improvement in his own troublesome right knee and an injured left ankle in recent months.

When Rodriguez inquired about Bryant's treatment, Bryant vouched for the German doctor who developed the course of injections of plasma-rich platelets that supposedly stimulate healing in arthritis-affected areas.

Bryant says his knee is now 95 percent healthy after at least three surgeries in the last eight years. He apparently had the same treatment done in October on his ankle, which also isn't limiting him this season.

"You can't just try something just to try it," Bryant said. "It has to make sense. It has to be something that you can back with research and study and things like that."

And how did Bryant get information about the therapy—called Orthokine—being done in Dueseldorf?

"It's my job to know these things," Bryant said with a grin.

The Yankees might benefit from Bryant's knowledge. General manager Brian Cashman said Wednesday that Rodriguez is "100 percent" with "no red flags" going into spring training.

Rodriguez had surgery on his right knee last July and saw his power drop in the second half and postseason. He played in 99 games and hit 16 homers, struggling to produce at his usual prolific levels.

Bryant is far from fully healthy. He's still playing with a torn ligament in his right wrist, wearing a brace on the joint whenever he isn't on court.

He's no longer wearing a wrap on the oft-injured index finger on his right hand, but that's because the joint is now "bone on bone," according to Bryant.

And Bryant hasn't stopped trying new things to heal more quickly and thoroughly. Several Lakers joined him at a cryotherapy clinic in the Sacramento area on Monday, trying out an extreme cold chamber that's thought to decrease pain and swelling in athletes.

Bryant can't remember when his friendship with A-Rod started, but they've been friendly for years, going out to dinner and talking regularly. He's grateful he could help the 36-year-old slugger get back in top shape.

"As a Yankee fan? Hell yeah," Bryant said.

NBA BRIEFS

NBA: No travel on Wade's winning shot in Charlotte

NEW YORK (AP)—The NBA says Miami's Dwyane Wade did not travel before his shot that beat Charlotte on Wednesday night. Wade banked in a short jumper with 2.9 seconds left, and the Heat held on for a 96-95 victory. Because he appeared to make an extra move forward between stopping and releasing the ball, there was speculation he should have been called for a traveling violation.

But spokesman Tim Frank explains Thursday that: "Wade gathers the ball with his right foot on the floor, and step one is when both feet touch the floor simultaneously. He then steps with his right foot for step two." A video explanation of the play is posted at <http://www.nba.com/official>.

Michael Jordan engaged to model Yvette Prieto

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Michael Jordan is engaged to longtime

girlfriend Yvette Prieto, a Cuban-American model he's been dating for three years. Publicist Estee Portnoy confirmed the news, first reported by WCNC in Charlotte, on Thursday. The Bobcats owner got engaged over the Christmas weekend. No wedding date has been set. This will be Jordan's second marriage. He married Juanita Vanoy in September 1989, and they divorced in 2006. They have two sons, Jeffrey Michael and Marcus James, and a daughter, Jasmine.

Browns' McCoy improving from concussion



BEREA, Ohio (AP)—Colt McCoy didn't want to relive any of what happened to him three weeks ago.

It's not clear if he remembers that night in Pittsburgh.

The Browns' young quarterback wants to move on from a concussion that ended his season, spawned a controversy and prompted the NFL to do more to treat injured players.

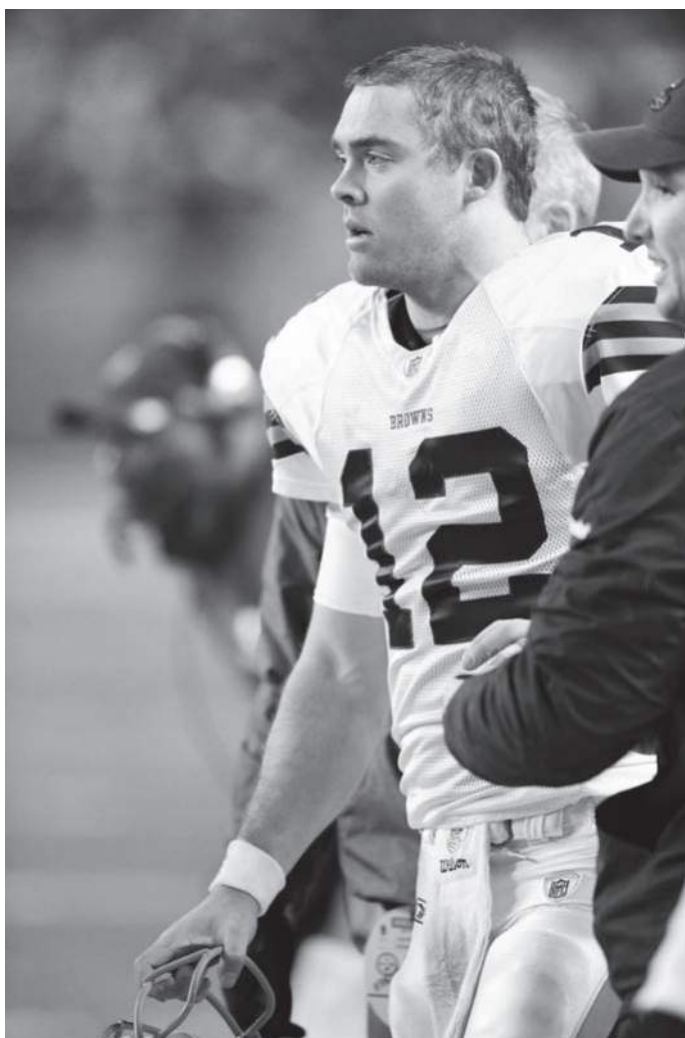
Sporting a newly grown beard, McCoy said Thursday that he's "feeling better" and making progress from the concussion he sustained on Dec. 8 from a helmet-to-helmet hit delivered by Steelers linebacker James Harrison. McCoy, who has not been medically cleared to practice since he was blasted by Harrison, refused to answer questions about what he recalls from the hit or what transpired in its aftermath.

McCoy, though, did praise Cleveland's medical staff for its handling of his concussion despite the team not testing him for a head injury on the sideline and sending him back in the game after sitting out just two plays.

"Our medical staff does an outstanding job and that should never be in question," said McCoy, speaking for the first time since he was diagnosed with the concussion.

McCoy didn't want to talk about the vicious hit by Harrison, who lowered his head and delivered a crushing blow to the QB's facemask, knocking his feet out from under him and sprawling him on his back. McCoy also declined to reveal any of his symptoms or why he hasn't been allowed to return to the field.

"I just don't want to go there guys," McCoy said. "I really don't want to recreate anything. I don't even want to think about it. I can tell you that I'm feeling a lot better, especially of late. I really feel like I'm coming out of this, and I hope to at least be



In this Dec. 8, 2011, file photo, Cleveland Browns quarterback Colt McCoy is checked out by the trainers as he gets ready to go back into the game after taking a hit from Pittsburgh Steelers linebacker James Harrison during the fourth quarter of an NFL football game in Pittsburgh.

able to be out there this weekend and help my team."

McCoy was asked if he thought Harrison's hit was a cheap shot.

"No," he said. "I really have no opinion. I think the league has handled that, and I'm doing the best that I can to move forward and do the best I can to get healthy and get back and help our team."

McCoy was equally vague when asked if Harrison deserved more than the one-game suspension he received.

"I really have no opinion on that," he said. "That's a league matter. That's completely out of my control."

Wearing a flannel overcoat and jeans, McCoy stood in front of his locker for nearly 10 minutes. He was typically polite and alert while addressing his injury, which has overshadowed the final month of Cleveland's season. Other than driving away from the team's facility, McCoy had not been seen since that fateful night at Heinz Field.

McCoy would not say if he has sought any outside medical opinions on his injury, and took the chance to again compliment the Browns' medical personnel.

"I don't want to go there, but our staff here has really been first class through all this and they are doing a great job and

again I really am making really good progress," he said. "They've said the same thing to me and I'm telling you the same thing. I'm feeling much better."

McCoy can't practice and it's obvious he won't play Sunday against the Steelers. Backup Seneca Wallace will make his third start in a row in place of McCoy, who won't get a final chance to prove to the Browns that he should be their long-term starter.

McCoy had an inconsistent second pro season, his first running coach Pat Shurmur's West Coast offense. McCoy expects to be evaluated in the offseason by Shurmur, general manager Tom Heckert and president Mike Holmgren like any other player.

"There's two things I can control: One, I can control how hard I work, how hard I prepare; and the second one is I can control how I feel," he said. "I want to be here. I love this city. I love my teammates. I'll do anything. I want to be here, so after that ... speculation has never gotten me anywhere. I'm a factual guy. That's all I've got."

The Browns were criticized in many corners for their handling of McCoy's concussion. In the days that followed, the NFL sent a medical team to Cleveland to meet with the Browns and representative of the Players Association also took part in discussions to see what more could have been done.

Holmgren said the team did not test McCoy for a concussion during the game because trainers and doctors were busy treating other players and did not see Harrison's hit.

Those meetings led to the league instituting a change in its game-day policy on injuries. Teams must have a certified athletic trainer in the press box to monitor play and provide medical staffs with information to help them assist injured players.

Also, in the hours after McCoy was injured, his father condemned the Browns for

not checking McCoy more thoroughly and sending him back into the game. Brad McCoy made his comments to the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

McCoy was asked if his father's remarks have done damage to his standing with the club.

"No," he said. "But I will say I have talked to my dad and I have addressed some things with my dad and what we talk about I'm going to keep private."

The Browns have had nine players sustain 12 concussions, with McCoy's appearing to be the most serious. Tight end Benjamin Watson also missed three games, but the team

placed him on injured reserve after he suffered his third concussion since July.

It's been frustrating for McCoy to be away from his teammates. He said he's watched the past two games from home and doesn't know if he'll be allowed to be on the sideline for the Browns' season finale. Still, it won't be the same as playing.

"The hardest part is not being able to travel or be with your team or be out there at practice with them or be in games," he said. "You work so hard all year long to be able to just be out there and contribute, so that's been the hardest part."



New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady leaves the podium after a media availability at the NFL football team's facility in Foxborough, Mass. Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2011.

Brady returns to practice after report of injury

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—Tom Brady participated in practice Thursday on a limited basis because of a left shoulder injury.

The New England Patriots quarterback had missed Wednesday's session, but the team said his absence was not injury-related.

Comcast SportsNet reported that same day that Brady had X-rays to check for a separated left shoulder and was told he was "all set." Patriots spokesman Stacey James said Thursday: "If there was an injury then it would be on the injury report."

Brady was listed on Thursday's report as having participated on a limited basis with the shoulder injury. He was one of 17 Patriots listed as participating on a limited basis, meaning a player took part in fewer than 100 percent of his normal repetitions.

He loosened up and ran with his teammates at the start of the practice while reporters were allowed to watch.

Brady landed hard on his left shoulder with 1:40 left in the fourth quarter Saturday

when he was tackled by Kevin Burnett on a scramble in a 27-24 win over the Miami Dolphins in which he also scored on two 1-yard sneaks.

The Patriots have one more practice on Friday before a walkthrough on Saturday for Sunday's regular-season finale against the Buffalo Bills (6-9).

The Patriots (12-3) have clinched a first-round bye and can lock up home-field advantage throughout the AFC playoffs with a win or tie. If they lose, they could still get home-field advantage with a loss or tie by both the Baltimore Ravens and Pittsburgh Steelers.

Brady has a chance for the fourth 5,000-yard passing season, needing just 103. Drew Brees of the New Orleans Saints set the NFL record of 5,087 Monday night, 3 more than the mark set by Dan Marino of the Miami Dolphins in 1984.

The Saints, tied with the San Francisco 49ers for the second-best record in the NFC at 12-3 and with a chance to earn a bye, face the Carolina Panthers.

Roethlisberger says he'll be on the field Sunday

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger doesn't want his sprained left ankle to keep him out of Pittsburgh's regular-season finale Sunday against the Cleveland Browns.

"As long as I can deal with pain, I'll be out there," Roethlisberger said Thursday. "I don't want to let the guys down, so I'll do what I can to be out there."

Roethlisberger, who sat out the Steelers' win last Sunday against

the St. Louis Rams, fully participated in practice again Thursday. He said the ankle, sprained on Dec. 8 in Pittsburgh's last meeting with the Browns, was "a little sore." Offensive coordinator Bruce Arians said he was "much more" confident in Roethlisberger's ability to play Sunday after watching his mobility improve in Thursday's practice.

Roethlisberger will play if he's healthy, Arians said.

"I want him out there but not

at the risk of injuring himself," Arians said. "If he can't move around and get out of the way, there's no sense in getting him out there."

There's plenty at stake against the Browns as the Steelers (11-4) remain in the hunt for the AFC North championship. To win it, they need a win vs. Cleveland and hope the Cincinnati Bengals beat the Baltimore Ravens on Sunday.

If Roethlisberger can't play,

37-year-old Charlie Batch, who threw for 208 yards in the Steelers' win over the Rams, is available.

Guard Doug Legursky (shoulder) and safety Troy Polamalu (knee) sat out for the second straight practice Thursday. Linebacker James Harrison, who sat out Wednesday's practice with a neck injury, and receiver Mike Wallace (ankle), who was limited in practice Wednesday, participated fully Thursday.

IRS sues Yankees' Hal Steinbrenner over tax refund



NEW YORK (AP)—The

Internal Revenue Service is suing New York Yankees managing general partner Hal Stein-


brenner over what it calls an "erroneous" tax refund of more than \$670,000.

The suit was filed Tuesday in federal court in Tampa, Fla.

The dispute dates to the 2001

tax year and involves a refund the IRS paid in 2009. The IRS says the refund claim was filed too late and has sued Steinbrenner and his wife, Christina, to recover \$670,493.78.

Yankees spokeswoman Alice McGillion says Steinbrenner's representatives hadn't received any prior notices regarding the matter from the IRS.



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Agulto wins Christmas billiards tourney



Patience and steady play took Joey Agulto to the championship of the Local Boys Christmas Billiard Tournament at 19th Hole last Dec. 22, 2011.

Agulto topped Randy Sablan in the finals to earn the first place trophy, \$170 and a bottle of wine gift. Mei Rengiil was third, with Ed Suzuki fourth, Dave Maratita fifth, and Nize Masayos sixth.

First through fifth places won trophies donated by Pacific Amusement, bottle wine gifts and prizes from James Han, president of QQ Tour and Travel.

He provided \$100 to the first place winner, one-day car rental from QQ Car Rental for second and third place, and free nail care at M&J Beauty Salon to the fourth and fifth place win-

ners. The entry fee pot was split with \$70 for first, \$42 for second, and \$28 for third place.

To keep the event from going to late, players pre-registered for the event and came in knowing their start time and opponent player for the night.

Agulto got an early Christmas present with a bye when his first opponent couldn't make it. He climbed to the winner's bracket final by not making mistakes and excellent shot-making while waiting for his opponents to give him an opening.

He overcame Masayos, Suzuki, and Rengiil in his steady march to the top.

Masayos had edged Norm Tenorio, while Suzuki outdid Maratita and Pat Taitano before falling to Agulto. Taitano had sent Tay Watanabe to the

losers bracket.

Rengiil handed Ron Chisato, husband Rick Rengiil, and Sablan their first losses, but fell short against Agulto. Sablan had started out strong with a win over Pat Cepeda.

Maratita came back by eliminating Watanabe, Rick Rengiil and Tenorio, though Tenorio helped by scratching after banking the 8-ball. He then lost to Suzuki in a rematch.

Cepeda took out Chisato then lost to Masayos. Masayos also finished off Taitano..

Sablan continued his excellent play, stopping Masayas and edging out Mei Rengiil in their second meeting of the night.

Agulto got the better position in the final game and held on for the win. **(PR)**

PENN

From Page 28

of the top 10 stories involved upheaval in the NCAA: conference realignment (No. 4); the Ohio State infractions that cost Jim Tressel his job (No. 6); and more sex abuse accusations, these involving Syracuse basketball (No. 9).

Tiger Woods' humbling return to the public eye was the top story last year.

Here are 2011's top 10 stories:

1 PENN STATE: Paterno said in a statement Nov. 9, "It is one of the great sorrows of my life. With the benefit of hindsight, I wish I had done more," and that he would retire at the end of the season. It wasn't enough to quell the rising outrage that he didn't go to the police after then-graduate assistant Mike McQueary told him in 2002 about witnessing an apparent assault. By the night of Nov. 9, Paterno was out, and so was Penn State President Graham Spanier. As 2011 comes to a close, athletic director Tim Curley, who was placed on leave, and since-retired university vice president Gary Schultz await trial, and Sandusky faces additional charges. Paterno revealed Nov. 18 he had been diagnosed with a treatable form of lung cancer. The Nittany Lions play Houston in the TicketCity Bowl on Jan. 2.

2 NFL/NBA LOCKOUTS: "Millionaires vs. billionaires" was often fans' reaction to the labor woes that struck the NFL and NBA this year. Football's work stoppage lasted 4 1/2 months before an agreement was signed Aug. 5; it cost the league just one preseason game. Fans have quickly forgiven the owners and players based on ticket sales and television ratings. Basketball's dragged on for more than five months and wiped out 16 games of the normal 82-game schedule. The fallout won't be clear until the season begins on Christmas.

3 PACKERS WIN: Aaron Rodgers and Green Bay are shining and well out of Brett Favre's shadow. The

injury-ravaged Packers barely made the playoffs as a No. 6 seed last season, then won three road games to reach the Super Bowl, where they beat the Pittsburgh Steelers 31-25 in February. They kept right on winning into the 2011 season, rolling to a 13-0 start led by play from their quarterback almost as perfect as their record, until an upset loss to the Chiefs.

4 CONFERENCE REALIGNMENT: San Diego State in the Big East? Another dizzying round of college conference hopping made a mockery of geography. Texas A&M bolted the Big 12 for the SEC in September - likely ending its more than century-old rivalry with Texas - which set off the dominoes. Missouri followed the Aggies to the SEC. The Big East lost Syracuse and Pittsburgh to the ACC and West Virginia and TCU to the Big 12, then regrouped by adding some hardly Eastern schools: Boise State, San Diego State, Houston, SMU.

5 CARDINALS WIN: St. Louis trailed in the wild-card race by 10 1/2 games in late August but rallied to clinch a playoff berth on the season's final day. The Cardinals' comeback in the World Series might have been even more remarkable. They were twice down to their final strike in Game 6 against the Texas Rangers, who were up by two runs in the ninth and 10th innings. St. Louis won it on David Freese's home run in the 11th before clinching the championship in Game 7. Manager Tony La Russa retired after the victory parade.

6 OHIO STATE: The Buckeyes beat Arkansas 31-26 on Jan. 4 in the Sugar Bowl with five players allowed to take part even though they were suspended for the first five games of the 2011 season for NCAA infractions. Ohio State would soon have far bigger problems. The school learned that month that Jim Tressel, who coached the Buckeyes to their first national title in 34 years, long knew about the transgressions and had violated NCAA rules by not reporting them.

tably shifts to the degree of difficulty.

■ ■ ■

There's Miguel Cotto proudly presenting himself as the worthiest among possible Pacquiao challengers.

He scored a blood-splattered, vengeful win over Antonio Margarito, a Pacquiao victim like Cotto himself.

Cotto may have some valid points, claiming resurgence after that low point when he had to be helped on his feet on the way out of the venue following the gory stoppage he suffered against Pacquiao.

■ ■ ■

It's like this. Cotto may indeed have recovered from that momentary dev-

NMIVA clinics resume Jan. 11



In light of Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association's holiday break, its free beach clinics at Fiesta Resort & Spa has been postponed and will pick back up with its girls practice sessions on Jan. 11 scheduled from 4pm to 6pm, in addition to its co-ed morning sessions from 8am to 10am on Jan. 14. CNMI national volleyball coach Russ Quinn encourages all participating athletes to carry on with their own personal training regiments in their free time until the January practices start back up.

For more information, visit www.nmivolleyball.org or email nmivolleyball@gmail.com. **(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)**

IT&E

From Page 28

ner-up Crazy 8 and then through third-ranked Home Boyz Five. It would be a nice cherry on top of Shark Attack's first place regular season finish.

As for the contenders, No. 5 Pirata received a first round bye before defeating the last place 19th Hole Bar-Titans, 4-2.

The SBA also wants to remind all members that following Tuesday's Obyan Bud Cup finals, the league is holding its 2011 Summer/Fall Season awards banquet on Jan. 8 starting 10:30am at Charley's Cabaret at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

SEDA

From Page 28

ers, 9-3, at Wild Bill's Bar & Grill to advance to the championship match.

It was a race to nine with the A-Division scores sheets structured as a best-of-17 series. Teams take turns competing in a variety of games that keep players on their toes.

Last Tuesday, Mixed Blood 2 dethroned top-ranked and sister team Sabalu Boys, 8-5, in a home draw and look to be the team to beat.

Still they have to get past Kamote's who took out No. 6 Jonny's Dosukebe Boys after the latter enjoyed a bye through the first round.

Whichever team they face, it would serve as a hefty feat for Strike Force, who advanced to the finals over No. 9 VFW Post 3457-Assashunz, 8-3.

It is a race to eight in B-League play with the scoring system set as a best-of-15 game series.

Meanwhile, Wednesday's C-Division is entering its semifinal round as No. 4 Sparks hosted second place One Shot, of VFW Post 3457, and pulled off an impressive 8-4 upset to initiate a changing of the guard heading into the semis.

Oh! MG advanced over D'Pirates Lucky Shot, however details were not made available. Similarly to the B-League, C-Division matches are formatted as a best of 15-game series.

Eighth-ranked Jonny's Night Hawks upset No. 7 Joe's Steakhouse's I Like It, 8-6, in a home match, while last place Gaia's World-C pulled the rug from under No.9 and sister team Gaiana-B, 8-6.

The C-Division finals are set for Jan. 11 at a location still to be determined.

In addition, SEDA organizers want to remind all members that its 2011 Summer/Fall awards banquet for all divisions will be held at 10:30am on Jan. 22 at Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret.



Browns' McCoy improving from concussion

Page 26

Saipan Tribune Sports



Durant leads Thunder past Mavs, 104-102

Page 25

28 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2011 - SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2012

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Penn State saga voted AP sports story of year

By RACHEL COHEN
AP SPORTS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—The ouster of one of America's most revered coaches, Penn State's Joe Paterno, after shocking child sex abuse charges against his former assistant was overwhelmingly voted the sports story of the year by members of The Associated Press.

On the morning of Nov. 5, Paterno's Nittany Lions were undefeated in the Big Ten and ranked No. 16 in the country, and the 84-year-old Hall of Famer was renowned as the winningest coach in Division I football, a leader who preached and practiced "Success with Honor." Then came the staggering revelations: the indictment of longtime defensive coordinator Jerry Sandusky

for allegedly sexually assaulting eight boys over a 15-year span, perjury charges against two high-ranking school administrators—and a grand jury report that suggested Paterno knew of accusations against Sandusky and did not do enough to pursue them.

Within four days, Penn State's board of trustees had done the once-unthinkable, firing Joe Paterno after 46 seasons as head coach.



This Nov. 18, 2008 file photo shows Penn State head football coach Joe Paterno answering a question during his weekly news conference in State College, Pa. The Second Mile non profit, had thrived since its creation in 1977 because of Jerry Sandusky's prominence as a defensive coach at Penn State, its close ties to university donors and leaders, and its use of Penn State's athletic fields for its camps serving at-risk children. Then-coach Paterno often served as master of ceremonies at The Second Mile fundraiser's.

There were 214 ballots submitted from U.S. news organizations that make up the AP's membership. The voters were asked to rank the top 10 sports stories of the year, with the first-place story getting 10 points, the second-place story receiving nine points, and so on.

The Penn State saga received 2,044 points and 172 first-place votes. It was also voted the No. 6 news story for 2011 in the AP's annual poll of U.S. editors and news directors.

The No. 2 sports story—labor strife in the NFL and NBA—had 15 first-place votes and 1,345 points.

The turmoil that at times seemed to rock college sports on a weekly basis this year was evident in the voting beyond the Penn State selection. Three more

See PENN on Page 27

IT&E Voyagers win Agingan Budweiser Cup



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The IT&E Voyagers, seen here in a file photo taken at Jonny's Bar & Grill, went into VFW Post 3457 and knocked off X-Tream, 4-2, to be crowned the SBA's Agingan Division Budweiser Cup champions last Tuesday.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Jonny's Bar & Grill's IT&E Voyagers bested X-Tream, 4-2, in Tuesday's Saipan Billiards Association Agingan Division championship match for the Budweiser Cup held at the VFW Post 3457.

Matches are formatted as a best-of-seven series starting with a pair of doubles matches followed by four singles pairings. Both teams split a doubles bout before IT&E washed away X-Tream in three straight singles games.

IT&E was the trailblazer of the division since the very beginning of the season and came into the tournament ranked No. 1. The Voyagers took the scenic route to

its Bud Cup win and capped off quite an impressive run against some of Saipan's toughest organized competition.

The team is made up of Jao Bernardo, Luis Fajardo, R.J. Mascarinas, Brian Nelvis, Roman Rodriguez, Boyet Saquico, Jojo Talibong, and Rolly Villanueva.

Meanwhile, SBA's Obyan Division king is yet to be crowned. Its finals is set for Tuesday night at D'Pirates Bar and features top-ranked Fotten Palau, of Joe's Steakhouse, up against a fighting D'Pirates' Pirata band.

Shark Attack packed a knapsack at the start of the contest and went over to Jonny's where they advanced past division run-

See IT&E on Page 27

SEDA A and Tuesday-B Bud Cup winners to be crowned next week

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Saipan Electronic Dart Association's 2011 Bud Light Cup in its A-Division and Tuesday B-League classes will start next week, while the C-Division tournament is about to enter its semifinals on Wednesday.

The final table is set for the A-Division title on Monday and features top-ranked Mixed Blood Shooters 1, out of D'Pirates Bar, against fifth place Proofers, of Jonny's Bar & Grill's.

Meanwhile, the B-Division finals are scheduled to take place

on Tuesday and is highlighted with seventh-ranked Jonny's Strike Force taking on the winner between the red hot No. 3 Mixed Blood Shooters 2 and fifth place Kamote's Shawarma Boys of Es'y Kitchen.

Lastly, the C-Division semi-final matches break on Wednesday and includes the Sparks as the newly hailed top contender up against fifth-ranked Oh! MG of Naked Fish Bar & Grill, in addition to eighth-seeded Jonny's Night Hawks taking on last place World-B of Gaia Bar.

On Monday, visiting Mixed Blood 1 brushed off No. 4 Celebrity, 9-4, while the Proofers pummeled No. 9 Troubleshoot. **See SEDA on Page 27**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SEDA's C-Division Sparks upset second-ranked One Shot, of VFW Post 3457, to advance to the postseason of the Bud Light Cup last Wednesday at Jonny's Bar & Grill.

BARE EYE

By RECAH TRINIDAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer



Will Pacquiao choose degree of difficulty?

It's now officially a lottery: this mad race among a few candidates to make it as world welterweight boxing king Manny Pacquiao's next foe.

There was actually a total of three names in the running—Tim Bradley, Miguel Cotto, Juan Manuel Marquez—and that was already a crowd.

But now, they can no longer continue referring to the lineup as a short list.

■ ■ ■

When Freddie Roach was asked the other day who he thought should be Pacquiao's next rightful challenger, he ticked off one unfamiliar name.

"Lamont Peterson."

"Why Peterson?" asked the stunned interviewer.

"Why not?" Roach snorted.

■ ■ ■

Of course, four is already a crowd in this exacting search for Pacquiao's most suitable foe.

Bradley, Cotto, Marquez—not necessarily in that order—all boast strong credentials.

In Peterson's case, several experts were quick to suspect that Roach's main motivation for including him on the list was revenge.

It was Peterson who upset world junior welterweight titleholder Amir Khan, a Roach favorite whom the multiawarded trainer had tagged as heir apparent to the Pacman.

■ ■ ■

It was not a wholly conquering win Peterson scored over Khan, who himself had obviously been overhyped.

Objective observers believe the champ could've not been dethroned were it not for the questioned point deductions slapped by the referee on Khan, who has since hankered desperately for a rematch.

See WILL on Page 27